'Ghostly' Woman Startles California Actress - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

Posted on Apr 25 2015 - 4:36pm by Cryptozoology News

FRESNO, Calif. — A girl in California says she saw a car running through a woman without being harmed.

Kiaya H., a 16-year-old who claims to be an actress, says she and her mother were driving through Fresno two years ago when the mysterious woman showed up.

“We were driving in a south part of Fresno,” Kiaya told Cryptozoology News. “At around 9 p.m. I looked out and saw this old lady in the middle of the road,” she added.

The woman, the eyewitness says, was either “Hispanic or African American” with a red shirt and carrying a “wire basket” on her hand.

“She was probably 5 foot tall. We could really only see her in the head lights. I was afraid she was going to be hit.”

Suddenly, according to Kiaya, a car “went right through her”.

“I was scared out of my mind,” said the actress. “When it went through her, she didn’t act afraid or anything. Like she didn’t even see it.”

And, says Kiaya, seconds later, the woman “wasn’t there anymore” and that the “whole image disappeared”.

In late February, a Native American woman claimed to have seen a a ghostly humanoid entity in southeast Texas.

Back in January, a man in Pennsylvania said he had come face to face with an astronaut-looking humanoid and his deer-dog hybrid companion.

Last year, the Espanola police department in New Mexico posted a YouTube video claiming a ghost could be seen in it. Some of the officers added that the alleged entity was, occasionally, “breathing down their necks”.

Also last year, a “ghostly apparition” was seen jogging through the middle of a stadium’s tribune in Bolivia during soccer match broadcasted on live TV . It was later determined that the “dark shadow” was just a man running along an empty row of seats.

A few months later, a couple in Ohio said they encountered an armless, long-legged unidentified creature in the Fort Hill area some people dubbed an “alien”.

In 2013, a similar sighting was reported to have taken place on the A-457 Road between Lora Del Rio and Carmona in Seville, Spain. According to a local newspaper, the image appears to

be recurring.

Kiaya says that the incident lasted about 30 seconds and was not reported to the police. She did not specify a date.

“I was the only one to react to this apparition. I asked my mom if she saw anything and answered no. There wasn’t much traffic on the road so it’s not likely if anyone else saw her,” said Kiaya.

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'My Baby Turned into a Python', says Killer Mom - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

SOUTH AFRICA– A woman who killed her baby states that the infant had previously turned into a large snake and attempted to eat her.

The unnamed 27-year-old Kwamhlanga resident told the court on Monday that her 5-month-old baby had “repeatedly turned into a python” and that she was forced to kill the girl in order to avoid “being eaten alive”.

The mother explained that she had murdered her baby by throwing her into a toilet, where she was left unattended and later died.

“I heard voices telling me to take the baby back to the waters she had come from,” she told the South African magistrates, who by the end of the trial determined that the woman was insane and was referred to a mental institution.

Similar incidents have been reportedly taking place in the African continent in the past few months.

Just four months ago, police in the city of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, claimed to have witnessed three boys transform into cats.

In July, members of the Boko Haram terrorist organization, also in Nigeria, said they had been attacked by the ghosts of their victims, who had ‘possessed the bodies of snakes and bees’.

Kwamhlanga, located in the northwestern region of the Mpumalanga province, is home to the Ndebele tribe and witchcraft beliefs are commonly shared among the town’s residents.

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'Probably the best poster in the world': Carlsberg posters give away FREE beer

dailyrecord.co.uk

'Probably the best poster in the world': New Carlsberg billboards are giving away FREE beer

- 18:36, 8 April 2015
- By David Raven

PASSERSBY stopped during the humid weather for a refreshing pint courtesy of the giant Carlsberg poster.

Carlsberg

Thirst quencher: The marketing stunt appears to be a huge success

CARLSBERG are getting a reputation for being as inventive with advertising as they are consistent with their beer.

Their latest drive sees them giving away free beer from taps built straight in to the billboard posters.

Passersby are asked 'Is this the best poster in the world?' on the giant green advert.

The billboard advert equipped with a beer pump sprung up earlier today near to the Old Truman Bewery in Shoreditch, London.

Several drinkers were happy to help themselves to the free booze - and some even started queueing with their pets.

(How many people carrying an empty pint glass around with them will finally feel vindicated today?)

Stuart Aitken wrote on Twitter: "I know that Carlsberg want me to tweet this - but I can't stop myself. Hats off."

The impromptu party was still in full swing early this afternoon, but if you can't get there then there's still some good news.

Carlsberg marketing bosses said the promotion will be rolled out across the country.

Dharmesh Rana, senior brand manager, said: "We want to get the Carlsberg brand in front of as many beer drinkers as possible.

"To do this, we have to think differently with our approach and can't just rely on great TV advertising.

"'If Carlsberg did posters' is one of many ideas that we'll be developing over the course of the year to ensure that beer drinkers up and down the country see the Carlsberg brand in a new and engaging way alongside TV."

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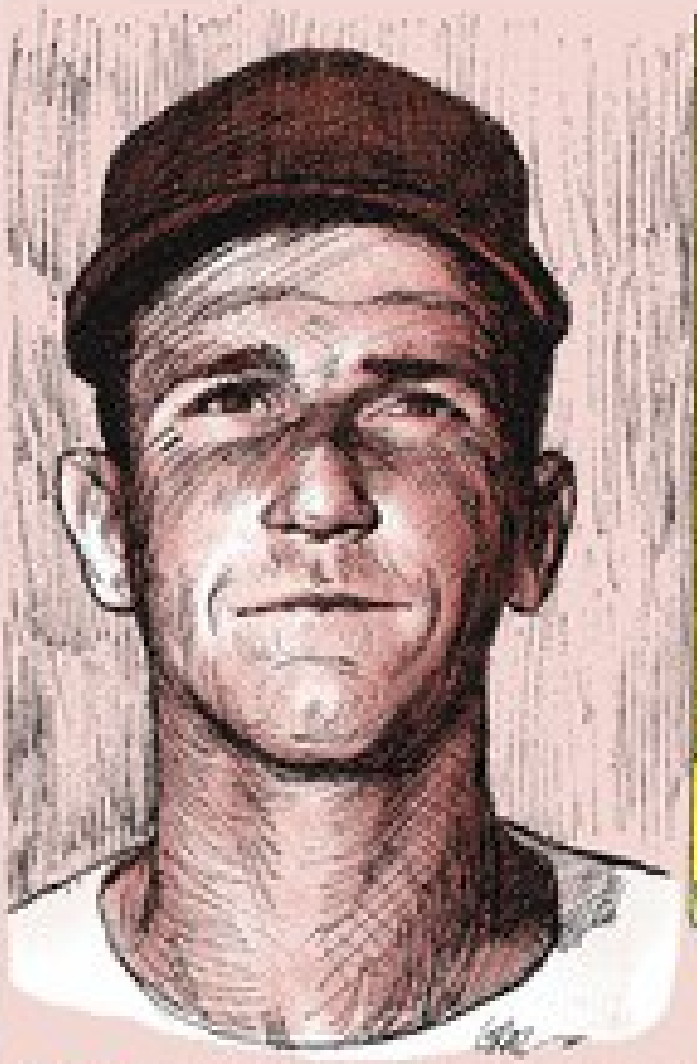

ON AUGUST 1, 1957, IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, MINOR LEAGUE PLAYER **GLEN GORBOUS** THREW A BASEBALL 445 FT. 10 IN. — A RECORD THAT STILL STANDS TODAY!

Submitted By Richard Blouw, Lafayette, LA

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4-30

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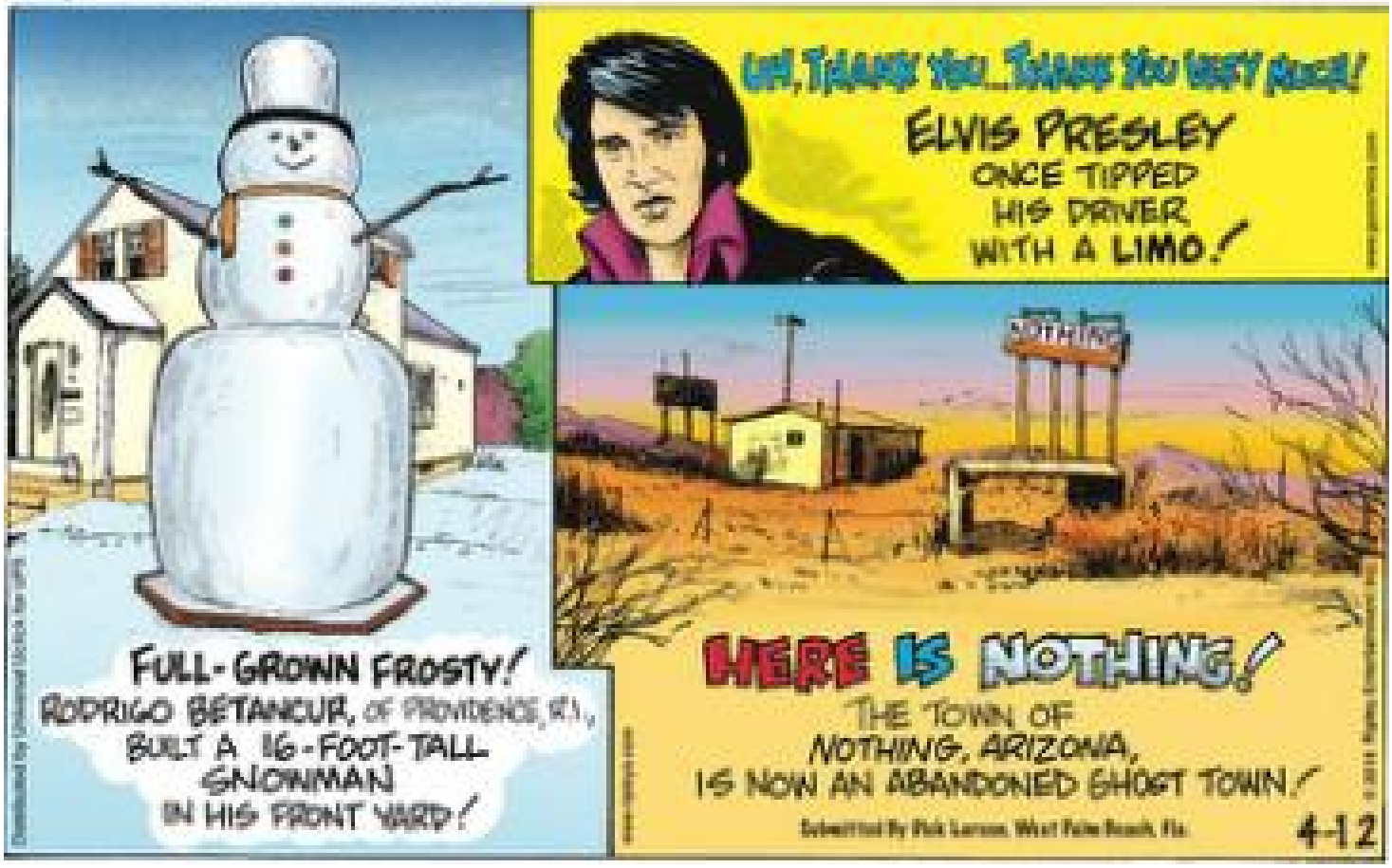

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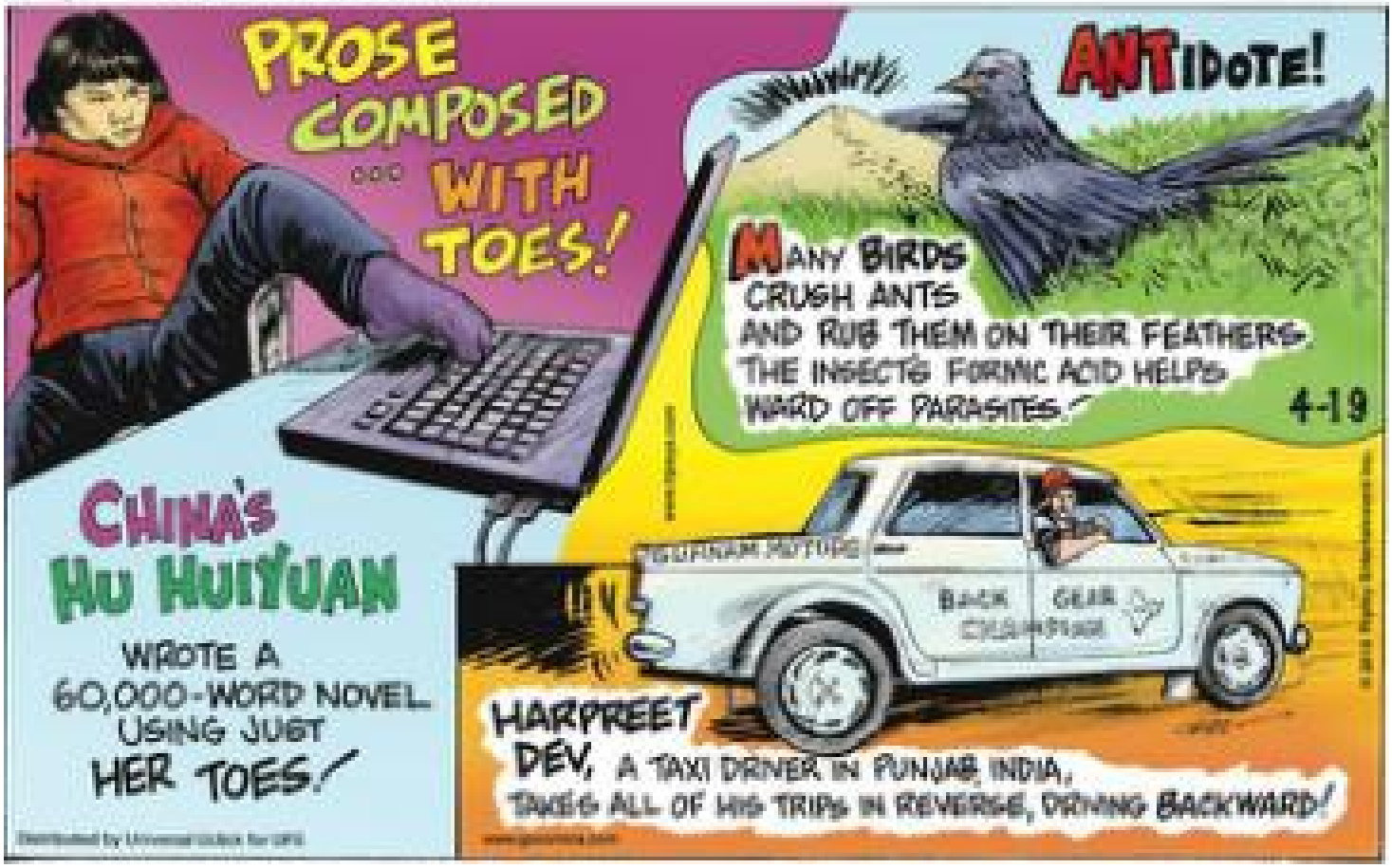

10 Children Murderers Of History

contactoparanormal.us

What lies behind the boyish face of that child? No one imagined that his young age could commit such atrocities. Here you have the top 10 of the youngest murderers documented.

10. "The Ripper" Jesse Pomeroy (11 years / USA)

He was known sadly late nineteenth century as the "Boston boyfriend" since 14 years, kidnapped and tortured eight children under 10 years. For these crimes was to reform school, which left quickly after making a good friendship with a prison officer.

After that, not just his criminal career, as he ended the life of a girl of 11 who was shopping at the store of his mother and a 4 year old, whom stabbed so savagely to nearly decapitate him. After being asked by the latter two crimes, Jesse coldly replied "Yes, I suppose I did, stop me."

9. "The murderer poison" Graham Young (14 years / England)

From an early age, Graham Young had been fascinated by chemistry, and the effects of substances in the human body. His other great interest was idolizing murderers such as Dr. Hawley Crippen, Willam Palmer or Adolf Hitler among others. Young began experimenting with substances when he was 14. Normally lied about his age, and when buying ingredients said they were for a class experiment. His family and friends were his victims. His father became ill, originally thought it was a virus. Then, the same disease attacked his stepmother and sister. All three suffered from diarrhea, vomiting and continuous body aches. In 1962, Young's stepmother died from poisoning.

At 14, Young knew about chemistry more than a college graduate, learned all by itself in library books.Sometimes your own poison will affect him when he forgot in which food had put and what not. Young was discovered by a teacher who inspected his locker after a day case, suspected by the attitude of the boy, who suggested making strange chemical experiments. The professor found bottles with poison, articles about famous prisoners for murder, and drawing sketches of dying people. Given this discovery called the police.Young was sent to a maximum security mental hospital, but that did not stop him when further testing their poisons in the hospital staff and fellow inmates (one of whom died). His knowledge was so extensive that could extract cyanide bay leaves. Young was released at age 23, her sister welcomed him home. His obsession with the poison continued, now, his victims were coworkers. Young was later sent to prison when he was arrested in possession

of antimony, thallium and aconitine, where he died of a heart attack years later.

8. "Bullying" Eric Smith (13 years / USA)

At 13, Eric Smith suffered bullying because of his thick glasses, freckles, red hair and ears peculiar way. It is thought that these features could be a side effect of medicine that his mother took for epilepsy while pregnant. Smith was convicted of the murder of a 4-year-old Derrick Robie. The boy was strangled, beaten in the head with large rocks and sodomized with a stick. When asked why he did it, Smith could not give a definitive answer. A psychiatrist diagnosed Smith with intermittent explosive disorder, a condition in which the person can not control his own inner rage. Smith was tried as an adult and went to prison. Today, Eric Smith remains in prison and has been denied parole five times, the last time in 2011.

7. "The Fraticida" Cristian Fernandez (12 years / USA)

His mother raped and pregnant at 12, her commit suicide stepfather before him, in 2001 only two years is national news to be found running naked, at age 6 kills one cat because it scratched, of alcoholic grandmother; these are just some of the evidence found in the trial conducted to Cristian and he could be tried for life. But the main evidence was the death of his brother two years.

On the afternoon of March 14, 2011, Biannela Marie left home and left Cristian, the oldest child, caring for siblings. When he returned in the evening, he found the smaller two years, unconscious bleeding from the nose and ears. Cristian told him he had "fallen out of bed." Biannela wiped and returned to bed. Then I was surfing the internet looking for information on celebrities, downloading music and doing some banking.

Only two hours after returning home, and after verifying that your baby does not react, internet also searched the symptoms that a person "with a blow to the head", as reflected in the documents of the police investigation. At that moment, frightened, he warned emergencies.

Susana also revealed that two weeks before playing the fight, Cristian had broken his leg the child. The coroner said David survived if they had been prior to hospital and so she was charged with aggravated murder, pleaded guilty and faces up to 30 years in prison.

Meanwhile, Cristian was charged with first degree murder. To this was added another charge when his half-brother five years told a psychiatrist that Fernandez molested him.

Perhaps also like: Animals Murderers - The Tsavo Man-Eaters

6. "Slaughter of Jonesboro, Arkansas" "Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden (11 to 13 years / USA)

1998 Jonesboro, Arkansas (United States): Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden, two boys 11 and 13 years old, attack the Westside Middle School, which are students, 24 March.
The reason is the snub that one of his companions does to Mitchell to despise him when he asks her to be his girlfriend. He and his cousin Andrew took up arms of their parents, hundreds of ammunition and dress in military camouflage uniforms. Kill 5 people (four students and a teacher) and injuring 10 more, before being submitted by the policía.Condenados to prison, both are released into the eighteenth birthday.

5. "Jealousy" Jordan Brown (11 years / USA)

Jordan Brown, a 11-year-old took the gun from his father murdered his pregnant stepmother and then, as if nothing had happened, boarded the bus bound for their school. "We do not believe that it is an accident, but are still investigating the reasons that might lead a child to commit murder," said police Wampum. Local media, attributed to some members of the Brown family, saying he could have been a case of jealousy.

A sister of the boy (4 years old), told a woodcutter who works on the farm that she believed her mother was dead. This, after verify, gave to the police who found out that the author was the lowest. Another sister of Jordan for seven years, gave him away to the police saying the role he may have played in the crime. If found guilty, the boy would face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a minimum of 50 years.

4. "Nevada Tan" Natsumi Tsuji (11 years / Japan)

It is a Japanese student who murdered a fellow in 2004. "Nevada-tan" (well known for the sweatshirt you used the day of the murder) was by then 11 years and his victim 12. The killing took place on 1 January 2004 in a primary school in Sasebo (Nagasaki Prefecture). The throat and arms of the victim had been slashed with a cutter.

The assailant was transferred in September 2004 from the reformatory where he was confined to prison Ujiie, Tochigi Prefecture. The institution is the only women's prison throughout Japan in which inmates can be placed in solitary confinement. Natsumi Tsuji, Nevada Chan, is serving until 2013 for his murder and has also made Japanese courts several laws concerning crimes committed by juveniles / children rethink.

This image, taken a few hours before the crime that shocked Japan, is the last picture we have of Satomi in life. n it appears Natsumi meters from Satomi, while the two form the "V" of Victory with your fingers. That day, later took his friend Natsumi Satomi to an empty room, where he blindfolded as if it were a game. Then he took a cutter and cut her throat. The girl was dying, lying on the floor of the classroom, where he bled. Then Natsumi walked into his classroom and entered with his clothes covered in blood, to the surprise of all present. The teacher went into action, and soon found the corpse of the murdered small so violently.

3. "The hitman child" El Ponchis (11 years / Mexico)

Although a child, led a group of murderers who works for the South Pacific Cartel. 'El Ponchis', which was accustomed to film and photograph the murders he committed and post them on the Internet, is considered one of the most sadistic and bloody cartel members.

According to British newspaper Daily Mail, a spokesman for the Mexican army said "'The Pochis' working under the orders of Julius Jesus Radilla. Its main function is to destroy the

enemies of Radilla. He tortured, slaughtered and left the bodies lying in the road just outside the town of Cuernavaca, in the city of Cuernavaca. "
At the time of his arrest in his failed escape attempt, "El Ponchis" was accompanied by her sister Elizabeth, 19. Currently, both Elizabeth and her other older sister Lina are held in the prison of Atlacholoaya purging sentences for federal crimes.

2. "The Killing of M" Mary Bell (10 years / England)

He was imprisoned for strangling a young boy named Martin Brown May 25, 1968, the day prior to fulfill their 11 years of age. As it is known, was alone at the time of the murder. Between that time and the second murder Newcastle police dismissed the incident, she and her friend Norma Bell were not investigated.

On 31 July 1968 the two were part again and again in a murder by strangulation, Brian Howe three years.Police reports concluded that Mary Bell returned to the scene with a knife to write an "M" in the child's stomach. Mary Bell also used a pair of scissors to cut parts of hair Brian Howe besides their genitals.

The girls were very young and their testimonies contradicted much, so I never knew clearly what happened.In principle the death of Martin Brown was declared as an accident, since there was no evidence of anything strange. However, the death was linked to the murder of Brian Howe and finally in August the two girls were arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

1 .- "The murderers of Liverpool" Jon Venables and Robert Thompson (10 years / England)

The two young men were ten years old when they committed the crime, one of the most heinous history of the United Kingdom for the young age of the authors and the fury with which they tortured their victims before killing her.

On the morning of February 12, 1993 both missed school and went to a shopping center in Bootle, Merseyside. James Bulger was playing against the carnage, he had entered his mother, Denise. When Thompson and Venables reached out her child, curious and jovial nature, he did not think twice. The mother threw the alarm immediately, but it was too late: James had moved away with their murderers by a secondary

exit, as we showed the cameras of a CCTV. It was the beginning of a long agony. . When they arrived at a railway hamlet of Walton, Thompson and Venables did not show any mercy

You may also like: Piedad, The girl who poisoned his brothers

First they threw bricks above the small, then beat him repeatedly with a metal bar. Thompson gave such a strong kick to the face that left the mark on skin. Finally they removed his pants and diapers and tortured with electric batteries. The boy's body was found only on February 16, after four days nationwide search: a train had cut in two.

Thompson and Venables, who were tried as adults by express decision of the government and sentenced to life imprisonment, will be monitored throughout the rest of their lives, and if you commit another offense will be sent back to prison.

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10 Undeciphered Codes and Texts

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10. The Codex Seraphinianus

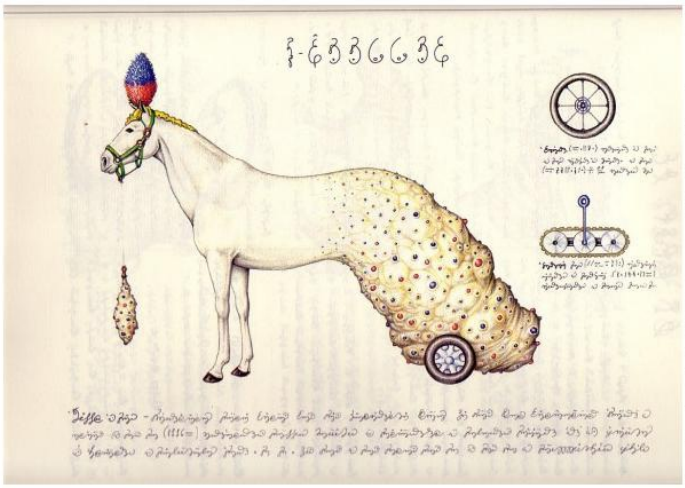

Image Source

The Codex Seraphinianus is a book written and illustrated by the Italian artist, architect and industrial designer Luigi Serafini during thirty months, from 1976 to 1978.The book is approximately 360 pages long (depending on edition), and appears to be a visual encyclopedia of an unknown world, written in one of its languages, a thus-far undeciphered alphabetic writing. The illustrations are often surreal parodies of things in our world: bleeding fruit; a plant that grows into roughly the shape of a chair and is subsequently made into one; a lovemaking couple that metamorphoses into an alligator; etc. Others depict odd, apparently senseless machines, often with a delicate appearance, kept together by tiny filaments. There are also illustrations readily recognizable, as maps or human faces. On the other hand, especially in the “physics” chapter, many images look almost completely abstract. Practically all figures are brightly coloured and rich in detail. The whole Codex is composed in a bizarre alphabet that has still yet to be translated even after intense study by linguists. Since the text itself is unreadable, the Codex has become most famous for Serafini’s artwork, which ranges from the surreal and beautiful to the downright disturbing.

9. Indus Script

Image Source

The term Indus script (also Harappan script) refers to short strings of symbols associated with the Indus Valley Civilization, in use during the Mature Harappan period, between the 26th and 20th centuries BC. In spite of many attempts at decipherments and claims, it is as yet undeciphered. The underlying language has not been able to be identified, primarily due to the lack of a bilingual inscription. Over the years, numerous decipherments have been proposed, but none has been accepted by the scientific community at large. The topic is popular among amateur researchers, and there have been various (mutually exclusive) decipherment claims. None of these suggestions has found academic recognition.

8. Dispilio Tablet

Image Source

The Dispilio Tablet (also known as the Dispilio Scripture or the Dispilio Disk) is a wooden tablet bearing inscribed markings (*charagmata*), unearthed during George Hourmouziadis's excavations of Dispilio in Greece and carbon 14-dated to about 7300 BP (5260 BC). It was discovered in 1993 in a Neolithic lakeshore settlement that occupied an artificial island near the modern village of Dispilio on Lake Kastoria in Kastoria Prefecture, Greece. The site appears to have been occupied over a long period, from the final stages of the Middle Neolithic (5600-5000 BC) to the Final Neolithic (3000 BC). A number of items were found, including ceramics, wooden structural elements, seeds, bones, figurines, personal ornaments, flutes (one of them dating back to the 6th millennium BCE, the oldest ever found in Europe) and what appears to be the most significant finding, the inscribed Dispilio Tablet which could not be deciphered by symbologists till date.

7. Vinča Script

Image Source

In 1875, archaeological excavations led by the Hungarian archeologist Zsófia Torma at Tordos, Hungary (today Turdaş, Romania) unearthed a cache of objects inscribed with previously unknown symbols. In 1908, a similar cache was found during excavations conducted by Miloje Vasic in Vinča, a suburb of Belgrade (Serbia). Later, more such fragments were found in Banjica, another part of Belgrade. Since, over one hundred and fifty Vinča sites have been identified in Serbia alone, but many, including Vinča itself, have not been fully excavated. Thus, the culture of the whole area is called the Vinča culture, and the script is often called the Vinča-Tordos script . The nature and purpose of the symbols is a mystery. It is dubious that they constitute a writing system. If they do, it is not known whether they represent an alphabet, syllabary, ideograms or some other form of writing. Although attempts have been made to decipher the symbols, there is no generally accepted translation or agreement as to what they mean. At first it was thought that the symbols were simply used as property marks, with no more meaning than "this belongs to X"; a prominent holder of this view is archaeologist Peter Biehl. This theory is now mostly abandoned, as same symbols have been repeatedly found on the whole territory of Vinča culture, on locations hundreds of kilometers and years away from each other. The prevailing theory is that the symbols were used for religious purposes in a traditional agricultural society. If so, the fact that the same

symbols were used for centuries with little change suggests that the ritual meaning and culture represented by the symbols likewise remained constant for a very long time, with no need for further development. The use of the symbols appears to have been abandoned (along with the objects on which they appear) at the start of the Bronze Age, suggesting that the new technology brought with it significant changes in social organization and beliefs.

6. Singapore Stone

Image Source

The Singapore Stone is a fragment of a large sandstone slab which originally stood at the mouth of the Singapore River. The slab, which is believed to date back to at least the 13th century and possibly as early as the 10th or 11th century, bore an undeciphered inscription. Recent theories suggest that the inscription is either in Old Javanese or Sanskrit. It is likely that the person who commissioned the inscription was Sumatran. The slab was blown up in 1843 to clear and widen the passageway at the river mouth to make space for a fort and the quarters of its commander. The slab may be linked to the legendary story of the 14th-century strongman Badang, who is said to have thrown a massive stone to the mouth of the Singapore River. On Badang's death, the Rajah sent two stone pillars to be raised over his grave "at the point of the straits of Singhapura". The Stone, now displayed at the National Museum of Singapore, was designated by the museum as one of 11 "national treasures" in January 2006, and by the National Heritage Board as one of the top 12 artifacts held in the collections of its museums.

Posted by Smashing Lists - April 20, 2011 at 9:37 pm

Categories: Odd Stuff Tags: Undeciphered Codes

10 Undeciphered Codes and Texts - Page 2 of 2

5. Voynich Manuscript

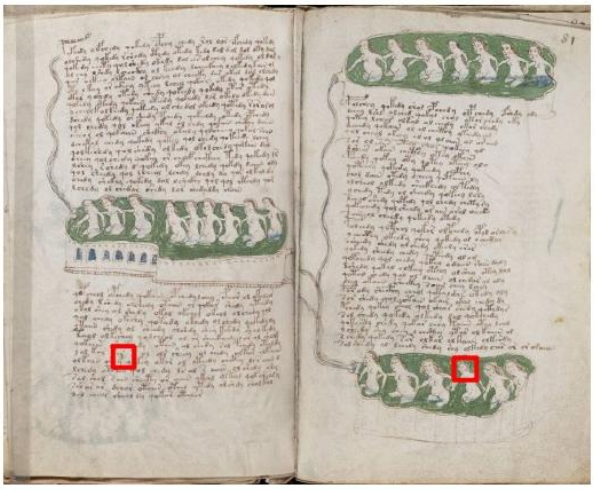

Image Source

The Voynich manuscript is a handwritten book thought to have been written in the early 15th century and comprising about 240 vellum pages,most with illustrations. Although many possible authors have been proposed, the author, script, and language remain unknown. It has been described as “the world’s most mysterious manuscript”. Generally presumed to be some kind of ciphertext, the Voynich manuscript has been studied by many professional and amateur cryptographers, including American and British codebreakers from both World War I and World War II. Yet it has defied all decipherment attempts, becoming a historical cryptology *cause célèbre*. The mystery surrounding it has excited the popular imagination, making the manuscript a subject of both fanciful theories and novels. In 2009, University of Arizona researchers performed C14 dating on the manuscript’s vellum, which they assert (with 95% confidence) was made between 1404 and 1438. In addition, the McCrone Research Institute in Chicago found that much of the ink was added not long afterwards, confirming that the manuscript is an authentic medieval document.

4. Byblos Syllabary

Image Source

The Byblos syllabary , also known as the Pseudo-hieroglyphic script , Proto-Byblian , Proto-Byblic , or Byblic , is officially an undeciphered writing system, known from ten inscriptions found in Byblos. The inscriptions are engraved on bronze plates and spatulas, and carved in stone. They were excavated by Maurice Dunand, from 1928 to 1932, and published in 1945 in his monograph *Byblia Grammata*. The inscriptions are conventionally dated to the second millennium BC, probably between the 18th and 15th centuries BC.

3. Beale Ciphers

Image Source

The Beale ciphers are a set of three ciphertexts, one of which allegedly states the location of a buried treasure of gold, silver and jewels estimated to be worth over USD$65 million as of 2010. The other two ciphertexts allegedly describe the content of the treasure, and list the names of the treasure's owners' next of kin, respectively. The story of the three ciphertexts originates from an 1885 pamphlet detailing treasure being buried by a man named Thomas Jefferson Beale in a secret location in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1820. Beale entrusted the box containing the encrypted messages with a local innkeeper named Robert Morriss and then disappeared, never to be seen again. The innkeeper gave the three encrypted ciphertexts to a friend before he died. The friend then spent the next twenty years of his life trying to decode the messages, and was able to solve only one of them which gave details of the treasure buried and the general location of the treasure. He published all three ciphertexts in a pamphlet, although most of the originals were destroyed in a warehouse fire. Since the publication of the pamphlet, a number of attempts have been made to decode the two remaining ciphertexts and to find the treasure, but all have resulted in failure.

2.Khitan Scripts

Image Source

The Khitan scripts were the writing systems for the now-extinct Khitan language, used in the 10th-12th century by the Khitan people. who had created the Liao Empire in north-eastern China. There were two scripts, known as the large script and the small script . These were functionally independent and appear to have been used simultaneously. The Khitan scripts continued to be in use to some extent by the Jurchens for several decades after the fall of the Liao Dynasty, until the Jurchens fully switched to a script of their own. Examples of the scripts appeared most often on epitaphs and monuments, although other fragments sometimes surface. Many scholars recognize that the Khitan scripts have not been fully deciphered, and that more research and discoveries would be necessary for a proficient understanding of them. Our knowledge of the Khitan language, which was written by the Khitan script, is quite limited as well. Although there are several clues to its origins, which might point in different directions.

1. Cascajal Block

Image Source

The Cascajal Block is a writing tablet-sized serpentinite slab which has been dated to the early first millennium BCE incised with hitherto unknown characters that may represent the earliest writing system in the New World. Archaeologist Stephen D. Houston of Brown University said that this discovery helps to "link the Olmec civilization to literacy, document an unsuspected writing system, and reveal a new complexity to [the Olmec] civilization." The block holds a total of 62 glyphs, some of which resemble plants such as corn and ananas, or animals such as insects and fish. Many of the symbols are more abstract boxes or blobs. The symbols on the Cascajal block are unlike those of any other writing system in Mesoamerica, such as in Mayan languages or Isthmian, another extinct Mesoamerican script. The Cascajal block is also unusual because the symbols apparently run in horizontal rows and "there is no strong evidence of overall organization. The sequences appear to be conceived as independent units of information". All other known Mesoamerican scripts typically use vertical rows.

Posted by Smashing Lists - April 20, 2011 at 9:37 pm

Categories: Odd Stuff Tags: Undeciphered Codes

Medieval mysticism or psychosis?

Alison Torn investigates the strange case of Margery Kempe

Until the middle of the 17th century, phenomena such as voice hearing were perceived as a special or sacred form of knowledge. Christianity viewed such individuals as supernaturally possessed by either divine or demonic spirits (Porter, 2002). Thus madness was considered to be closely related to religious experience, making both the experience and the narrative of madness very different from those possible today, where madness is predominantly understood within a scientific paradigm.

The Book of Margery Kempe tells the story of one woman's spiritual journey in medieval England over a 25-year period, describing her quest to establish spiritual authority as a result of her personal conversations with Jesus and God (Staley, 2001). Whilst the text is written in the third person, it is generally acknowledged to be both the first autobiography written in the English language and the first autobiographical account of madness (Peterson, 1982; Porter, 1988). In recent years this medieval account of mystical experiences has been used by clinicians and academics as evidence of the historical provenance of mental illness (Craun, 2005; Drucker, 1972; Freeman et al., 1990). I want to argue, however, that Margery Kempe belongs to a strong tradition of medieval mystics who represented their experiences in detailed and highly naturalistic descriptions (for a more detailed account, see Torn, 2011). Present-day Western culture has no available framework for understanding the intense physical and emotional expression of religiosity that was characteristic of such medieval spirituality. Instead, mystical experience is perceived as quiet, meditative contemplation, and the demonstrative embodied outpourings of religious experience are cast out into the realm of psychopathology (Kroll et al., 2002).

Margery Kempe and Dame Julian of Norwich

Margery Kempe was born in the Norfolk town of Lynn (now King's Lynn) in around 1373. She was the daughter of a prominent official of Lynn, John Brunham, five times mayor and Member of Parliament. At around the age of 20, Margery married John Kempe, also a prominent citizen, with whom she had 14 children, although virtually no information exists of how many survived infancy. Margery herself was a well-known figure in the town, a woman of both high fashion and business. After the birth of her first child at the age of 20 Margery acknowledges she went through a period of madness for around eight months. Following the failing of two of her businesses (brewing and milling) she turned to Jesus to save her from sins such as lust, pride, greed and envy, paying her penance by abstaining from meat, alcohol and, after a protracted negotiation with her husband over a number of years, sex.

In her pursuit of a holy life, Margery went on pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Rome and other holy sites in Europe. Throughout the book, she describes not only conversations with Jesus, Mary, God and other religious figures, but also visitations, with the aforementioned figures appearing to her, and also Margery herself participating in biblical scenes such as the birth and crucifixion of Christ. These visions were accompanied by hearing 'such sounds and melodies that she might not well hear what a man said to her in that time unless he spoke the louder', smelling sweet smells and feeling within her body a flame that 'is wonderfully hot and delectable and right comfortable' (Staley, 2001, pp.64–65). Her religious

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fervour leads to prolonged public demonstrations of loud wailing, sobbing and writhing, much to the irritation of both commoners and clerics.

Margery's story relates not only to her struggle to achieve some form of divine spirituality, but also her polarised reception within society. Many commoners rejected and slandered her as a devil worshipper. Clerics and town officials charged her with heresy, imprisoned her and threatened her with rape and death by burning. Others saw her as a holy mystic, a position Margery reinforces with her descriptions of 'miracles' (avoiding injury when masonry fell upon her), prophesies (predicting storms, recoveries from illness and death) and the support of leading clerics and holy people (Bishop of Lincoln, Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Julian of Norwich).

The narrative begins around 1393 with the self-acknowledged onset of madness after childbirth, which pre-empts for Margery a spiritual crisis. Below, she describes her madness and its effects:

> this creature went out of her mind and was wonderfully vexed and labored with spirits for half a year, eight weeks and some odd days. And in this time she saw, as she thought, devils open their mouths, all inflamed with burning flames of fire as if they should have swallowed her in, sometimes menacing her, sometimes threatening her, sometimes pulling and hailing her both night and day. (Staley, 2001, p.7)

Margery acknowledges that she was 'out of her mind' and she distances the narrator self from the narrated self with the phrase 'as she thought'. Within this telling phrase, Margery informs the reader that at this point in her life, she questioned her own sanity. From this point in the text Margery clearly distinguishes between what she perceives as an isolated episode of madness and her embarkation on a mystical life. It is this boundary between madness and spiritual passion that is so poignantly reflected in Margery's story.

However, within the fields of psychiatry and psychology there has been a struggle to engage with the religious imagination within this narrative. What is of interest from a historical and hermeneutic perspective is the way in which her story has been interpreted in modern times, as a story of psychosis as opposed to spiritual devotion (see for example, Claridge et al., 1990; Craun, 2005; Drucker, 1972; Ober, 1985). However, to apply such terms to a medieval experience and approach it within a positivist paradigm is extremely problematic. Critically, it dislocates Margery's experience from the historical and cultural context, so that subjectivity becomes separated from the contexts that make it meaningful. A pivotal scene from Margery's text that illustrates how her experiences have been subjected to modernist interpretations, centres around her heightened sensory experiences. This scene is academically contested as, from a modern perspective, it is judged to contain psychopathological elements:

> Sometimes she felt sweet smells with her nose; it was sweeter, she thought, than ever was any sweet earthly thing that she smelled before... Sometimes she heard with her bodily ears such sounds and melodies that she might not well hear what a man said to her in that time unless he spoke the louder. These sounds and melodies had she heard nearly every day for the term of twenty-five years... She saw with her bodily eye many white things flying all about her on every side, as thick in a manner as motes in the sun... Also our Lord gave her another token, which endured about sixteen years, and it increased ever more and more, and that was a flame of fire wonderfully hot and delectable and right comfortable, not wasting but ever increasing of flame. (Staley, 2001, pp.64–65)

"the boundary between madness and spiritual passion is poignantly reflected in Margery's story"

Drawing on such passages some writers have interpreted Margery's experiences from a psychiatric perspective. For example, Craun (2005) claims that:

> Kempe was psychotic for much of her adult life...[her] account provides the modern reader with a unique opportunity to hear the voice of a woman with serious mental illness who lived 600 years ago. (Craun, 2005, p.656)

Claridge et al. (1990) place a scientific interpretation on the events of her life. Applying a psychiatric assessment tool to Margery's narrative (the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia – Lifetime Version (SADS–L)), the authors conclude that:

> Given this mixture of affective and schizophrenic features a modern psychiatric diagnosis for Margery Kempe would most likely be 'schizoaffective psychosis', precipitated in the first instance by childbirth. (Claridge et al., 1990, p.69)

Less sympathetically, Drucker (1972) describes Margery as a 'religious hysteric', condemning her visions as 'occasionally repellent and frequently silly', invalidating both Margery's experience and her narrative (Drucker, 1972, p.2916). Indeed, much of the content from Margery's narrative could be construed as classic psychotic symptoms: visions, auditory, olfactory and tactile hallucinations, grandiose delusions, self-neglect (Margery's penances of fasting, being inadequately clothed), social withdrawal (from family and friends), and feelings of passivity. However, what distinguishes the mystical experiences from her self-confessed period of madness

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are the narrative devices used. In the sensory extract, Margery does not express doubt over her experience, as she did reflecting on her madness. Rather what Margery attempts to communicate to her reader is a truly embodied spiritual experience, drawing upon established religious metaphors to communicate her spiritual passion. The seemingly senseless therefore becomes a metaphoric and meaningful way in which to communicate one's sense of being.

Furthermore, to situate Margery's experiences within a medical framework dismisses the social meaning of her behaviour and the possible theological interpretations of medieval society. For example, central to the orthodox liturgy is the conception that devotional words uttered are expressed through the senses (Good, 2001). Extreme emotion which, in modern times, is viewed as a sign of mental instability, was therefore a fundamental feature of spirituality (Hodgkin, 2007). Such intense spirituality was not repositioned within a medical framework until the 1650s, a development that led to mystical experiences that were embodied in strong emotions and physical sensations being categorised as pathological (Kroll et al., 2002). In this context, Margery's embodied descriptions cease to be tactile or olfactory hallucinations or grandiose ideas, but become experiences that result from a spiritual passion that was grounded in the established popular medieval texts (Lochrie, 2001).

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which was visited by Margery on one of her pilgrimages

Reappraisal

Margery's narrative and the scientific interpretation of her religious experiences raises the question of the cultural context of unusual experiences. Focusing on mysticism and psychosis, the two experiences have much in common: a powerful sense of consciousness, heightened perception, communion with the divine, exaltation, loss of self–object boundaries and distortion of time (Buckley, 1981; Jackson & Fulford, 1997). However, there are important distinctions between mysticism and psychosis, which are culturally situated. First, for the mystic, the embodied emotional experience is overwhelmingly positive, yet for the psychotic it is predominantly negative. This fundamental difference is reinforced by research examining the distinction between the spiritual and psychotic experience, where most spiritual experiences were perceived by the individual as positive and benign, in comparison to psychotic experiences that were more likely to be perceived as negative and malign (Jackson & Fulford, 1997; Jackson, 2001).

Second, the perceived element of control differentiates mysticism from psychoticism, with a high degree of control in the mystical experience, as opposed to the typical lack of control in the psychotic experience (Heriot-Maitland, 2008). This differential factor has been identified as pivotal to voice hearers who successfully manage their lives without recourse to psychiatry (Romme & Escher, 1993; Romme et al., 1992).

Third, spiritual experiences tend to be confirmed by a particular subculture, as opposed to psychotic experiences, which remain unconfirmed and judged bizarre and particular to the individual (Jackson & Fulford, 1997). With the divergence from religion towards secular beliefs and activities in Western societies, for many undergoing unusual experiences, there are increasingly limited spiritual paradigms within which their beliefs can be framed and confirmed by others. This poses critical problems for those undergoing such affective experiences in Western society. As Heriot-Maitland (2008) argues, the mystic has a spiritual framework that makes sense of, and aids the communication of, unusual experiences. For the psychotic however, there is often the absence of an available framework and 'with no meaningful context to fall back on, the individual finds themself stranded, and grappling for explanations' (Heriot-Maitland, 2008 p.318).

This discussion of the boundaries between mysticism and madness is not to suggest that those diagnosed with psychosis need spiritual instruction or conversion in order to understand and communicate meaning from their unusual experiences. Rather Heriot-Maitland (2008) suggests such experiences are normalised as a universal psychological function, a form of problem solving within the existential sphere. This may not only be destigmatising, but also liberating for individuals and clinicians allowing for a space where explanations for unusual experiences can be arrived at in dialogue, which is consonant with the individual's values, belief systems and culture. Thus the diversity of the individual experience is accommodated as opposed to being reframed within the discourse of psychopathology (Kroll et al., 2002).

Conclusion

Unlike many diagnosed with psychosis today, Margery Kempe had a cultural space in which to explore her experiences. Religion provided Margery with a structure that left her with her dignity and freedom, a space that valued beliefs and meaning. More recent research with voice hearers suggests that not all unusual experiences are pathological (Jackson, 2001; Jackson & Fulford, 1997; Romme & Escher, 1993; Romme et al., 1992); some may be grounded in spiritual or cultural beliefs, which requires openness on behalf of the clinician to the alternative explanations and different tropes used by individuals. Working in this way may lead all parties to an enhanced understanding of unusual phenomena, providing richer explanations for experiences, as well as reducing negative features associated with them, such as social isolation, anxieties and low self-esteem. The boundaries between madness and religious experiences are still a contested area, and one where pathological explanations need to be challenged.

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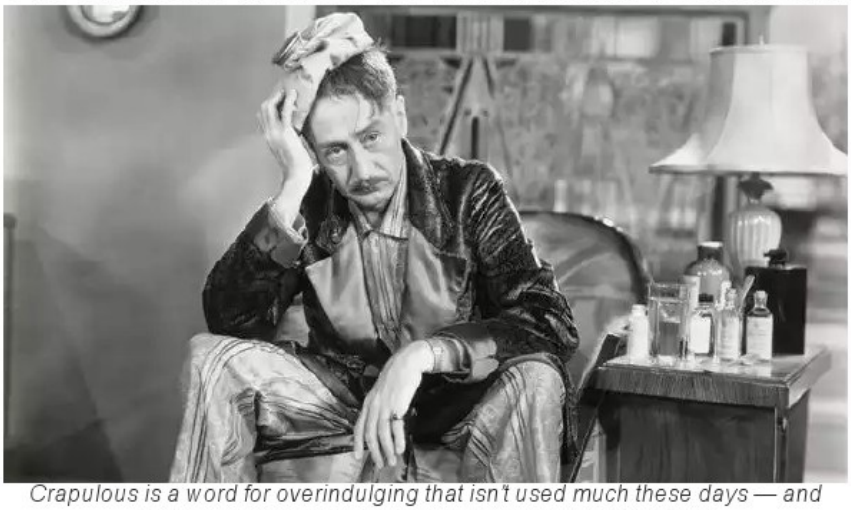
15 obsolete words we should still be using

mnn.com

Over time, some words fall into disuse, but that doesn't mean they aren't valuable.



Crapulous is a word for overindulging that isn't used much these days — and that's a shame. (Photo: Everett Collection /Shutterstock)

Language is constantly evolving as word meanings shift, new words emerge and others go out of style.

This fluidity is due to several factors. First, language changes along with our needs. As new technologies and experiences arise, we label them and create new words to describe them — like texting and Googling.

The creation of communication technologies like the Internet can even lead to entirely new sociolects — social dialects associated with certain groups — like lolspeak and leetspeak.

We also borrow words from other languages (sushi, kayak), combine them to create new words (motel, brunch) or shorten them to make new ones (phone, gym).

Language also evolves because no two people have the exact same language experience. Our lexicon can vary depending on our location, culture, occupation and education, and age can play a significant role as well.

How we lose words

The most widely used words in our daily language are the ones that have the most staying power, according to research by Harvard University and the University of Reading, and these are also the ones that evolve at the slowest rate.

The words that disappear from our vocabulary and become obsolete are simply those we no longer speak or write. In other words, if we don't use them, we lose them.

Unfortunately, this means that some truly inventive words have slipped from our minds and tongues and are rarely seen outside the pages of a dictionary.

Below, take a look at some wonderfully descriptive words that are now obsolete and see if you can work them into your daily speech. You'll find that some are quite fun to say!

Apricity: *noun*. The warmth of the sun in winter

My cat enjoys napping by the window even in cold months because of the apricity.

cat sunbathing

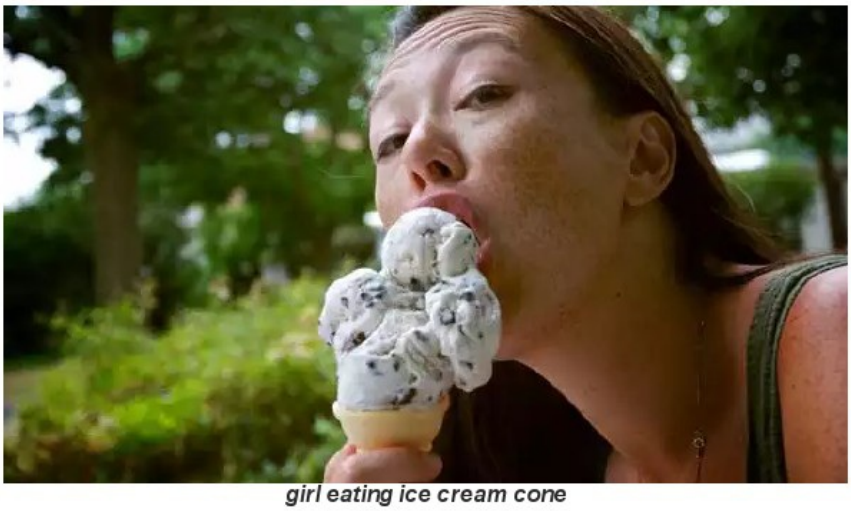
Callipygian: *adjective*. Having shapely buttocks

Cicisbeo: *noun*. A married woman's male companion or lover

Cockalorum: *noun*. A boastful person

Crapulous: *adjective*. Lack of restraint in eating or drinking, sick from excessive indulgence in liquor

My crapulous uncle is always a sight to behold on Thanksgiving.



girl eating ice cream cone

Deliciate: *verb*. To enjoy oneself, to luxuriate, to indulge in feasting

After she finished her vegetables, she delicated in twice as many desserts.

Frigorific: *adjective*. Chilling, causing cold

The frigorific blast of wind left me chilled to the bone.

Fudgel: *verb*. Pretending to work

Our boss blocked access to Facebook out of suspicion we were fudgeling.

Gorgonize: *verb*. To have a paralyzing or mesmerizing effect

Her sudden appearance gorgonized the crowd, leaving them awestruck.

awestruck crowd

Jirble: *verb*. To pour carelessly

Ludibrious: *adjective*. Ridiculous

Quidnunc: *noun*. An inquisitive, gossipy person *You can't tell him anything personal because he's such a quidnunc.*

foot sticking out of covers

Slugabed: *noun*. Lazy person who stays in bed long after the usual time for rising

Snowbroth: *noun*. Newly melted snow

Younker: *noun*. A young person

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2 alligator sightings in Monongahela River reported

2hr wtae.com

- **2 alligator sightings in Monongahela River reported**

Southwest Regional Police investigate in Belle Vernon

UPDATED 7:01 PM EDT Apr 08, 2015

WITH LOCAL POLICE REACHING OUT TO SEVERAL OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN SEARCH OF THAT GATOR. SKY FOUR WITH ACTION CAM SHOWING YOU WHERE THE MYSTERY IN THE MON IS TAKING PLACE, NEAR THE WHARF HERE. POLICE OUT ON THE WATER AFTER GETTING REPORTS THAT AN ALLIGATOR WAS SPOT PIED A MAN LAST NIGHT ABOUT MIDNIGHT. HE SAID IT HAD ITS HEAD OUT OF THE WATER ABOUT SEVEN INCHES. HE SAW POT ITS EYES LOOKING AT HIM. UM, AS IT PRECEDED PAST HIM, HE ACTUALLY SAW THE TAIL AND THE TIP OF THE TAIL. THE MAN TOLD POLICE HE THOUGHT IT WAS A LOG SOMEHOW MOVING UPSTREAM BUT HE TOOK OUT HIS FLASHLIGHT AND COULD SEE IT WAS DEFINITELY AN ALLIGATOR, ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN FEET LONG. POLICE SAY THERE WAS ALSO A POSSIBLE SIGHTING IN THE AREA TUESDAY AFTERNOON AS WELL WHEN ANOTHER MAN IN THE SAME AREA SAW SOMETHING PECULIAR WHILE APPLYING FOR A JOB. WHILE HE WAS WAITING TO PUT IN HIS APPLICATION, WAS WATCHING A DUCK SWIM AROUND OUT ON THE WATERS BEHIND ME HERE. AND SOMETHING TOOK THE DUCK, TOOK IT DOWN UNDER THE WATER, THE DUCK NEVER REAPPEARED AGAIN. Reporter: THE CHIEF SAYS IT IS COMMON FOR A GATOR TO CLIMB ABOARD A BARGE IN SOUTHERN CITIES AND JUMP OFF WHEN THEY ARRIVE UP NORTH AND THAT'S WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED HERE OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE'S DISCARDED PET. THIS SEARCH IS A TEAM APPROACH. POLICE ARE WORKING WITH THE U.S. COAST GUARD, THE PENNSYLVANIA

BELLE VERNON, Pa. —Police went onto the water in boats Wednesday after getting unconfirmed reports that an alligator was spotted in the Monongahela River.

Search for Mon River alligator

- A Coast Guard boat was used to search for an alligator in the Mon River.

WATCH: The search for the alligator in Mon River continues

Southwest Regional Police said a man reported that he saw what he believed to be an alligator, about 6 to 7 feet long, swimming upstream in Belle Vernon around midnight.

"He said it had its head out of the water about seven inches," Police Chief John Hartman said. "He saw both of its eyes looking at him as it proceeded past him -- the point of the tail, the tip of the tail."

Police said they have learned of another possible sighting in the same area by a man who saw something peculiar while applying for a job around 2 p.m. Tuesday.

"While he was down putting in his application, he was watching a duck swimming around in the waters behind me, and something took the duck down under the water. The duck never appeared again," Hartman said.

Hartman said it's common for an alligator to climb aboard a barge in a southern city and get off

A Coast Guard boat was used to search for an alligator in the Mon River.

when the boat arrives at a northern destination. He said that may have happened in this case, or it could be someone's discarded pet.

Police are working with the U.S. Coast Guard, the state Fish and Boat Commission and the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium as they continue to investigate.

Anyone who has information about a possible gator sighting should contact police at the Southwest Reg Pd page on Facebook or call 724-929-8484.

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25 Vintage Passports of Iconic 20th-Century Celebrities

scribol.com

They may have forever earned their places in the popular consciousness, but just like regular people, some of the 20th century's most iconic celebrities couldn't escape the need to get a passport if they wanted to travel across international borders. And it's perhaps refreshing to find that even the rich and famous weren't immune to the curse of the awkward passport photograph. The following documents serve as both fascinating historical artifacts and a peek into the everyday lives of some of the era's most enduring stars.

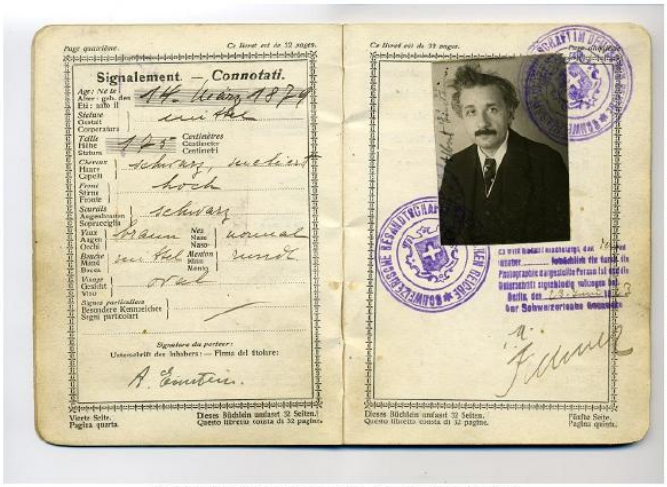


Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

25. Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein's famous special theory of relativity outlined how nothing can get from A to B more rapidly than the speed of light – not even the 1921 Nobel Prize-winning physicist himself, who had to pick up a passport and make his way around the globe as slowly as ordinary people.

24. Sammy Davis, Jr.

As an acclaimed vocalist, dancer and actor, Sammy Davis, Jr. traveled far and wide. Still, revealingly, speaking of the racism he encountered, the Rat Pack member once quipped, "Being a star has made it possible for me to get insulted in places where the average Negro could never hope to get insulted."

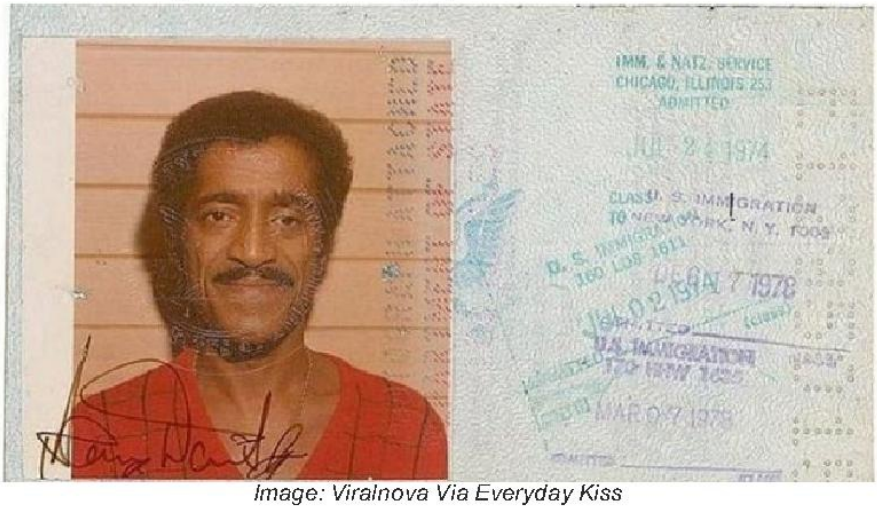
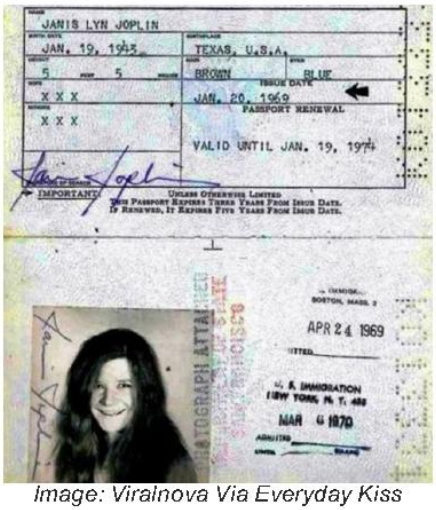


Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

23. Janis Joplin

Although this passport was valid until 1974, Janis Joplin tragically never got to use it up until its expiration date. The legendary singer died as a result of an unintentional heroin overdose in October 1970 while in the process of recording her album *Pearl*. She was just 27.



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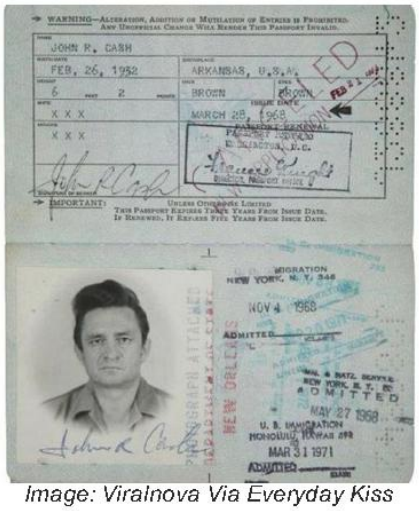

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

22. Johnny Cash

A passport stamp reveals that Johnny Cash and his almighty quiff were in Honolulu, Hawaii in March 1971, almost certainly to play a show at the Waikiki Shell with the Tennessee Three and June Carter. Interestingly, the Man in Black traveled to Europe even before he hit the big time as a country music star. In the 1950s he spent four years in the United States Air Force, during which period he relocated to West Germany to serve as a radio intercept officer listening in to Soviet broadcasts.

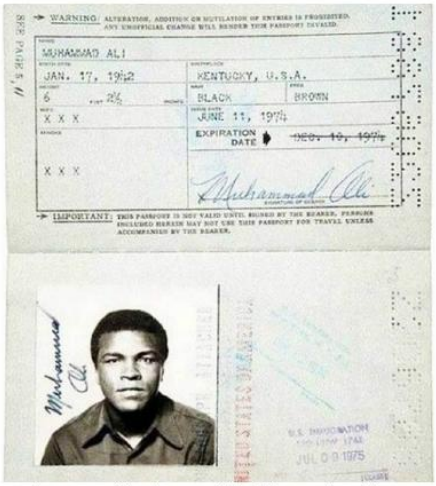

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

21. Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali likely used this passport to enter Kinshasa, in what is today the Democratic Republic of Congo, for his legendary "Rumble in the Jungle" with George Foreman in October 1974. With typical lyricism, Ali noted before the fight, "If you think the world was surprised when Nixon resigned, wait 'til I whup Foreman's behind!" And the great man wasn't wrong.

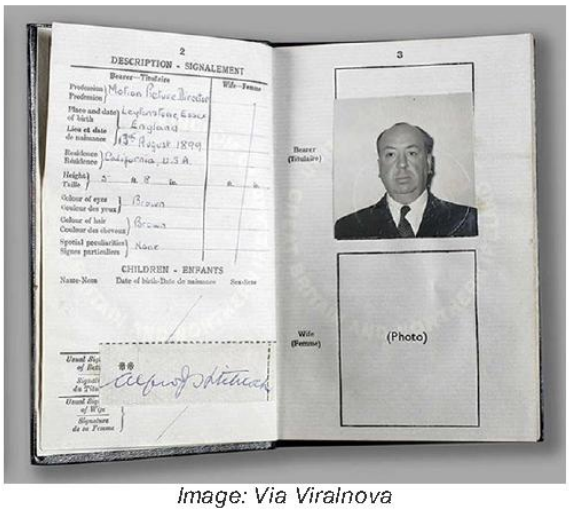

Image: Via Viralnova

20. Alfred Hitchcock

Alfred Hitchcock's beautifully handwritten passport lists him as having had no "special peculiarities" – but the iconic director arguably did have a couple. For one: his enduring ability to scare the living daylights out of audiences with such silver screen classics as 1960's *Psycho* and 1963's *The Birds*. Another Hitchcock idiosyncrasy was playing bizarre practical jokes on supposed "big heads": think, for example, him having a horse brought to an actor's dressing room purely so as to observe the player's response.

Image: Via Viralnova

19. Audrey Hepburn

Impeccably groomed movie star Audrey Hepburn signed this passport "A. Ferrer," her married title following her union with American actor Mel Ferrer in 1954. The couple divorced in 1968, however, and yet interestingly the travel document also notes the name of Hepburn's son Luca, born in 1970 out of her second marriage.

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

18. Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald performed the song "(I'd Like to Get You on a) Slow Boat to China" – but she may well not have been able to enter the country with this document. Fitzgerald's fascinating passport highlights the rather dim view held by U.S. authorities at the time toward areas "under Communist control."

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

17. Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway is seen as a rather suave, dapper young man in this photo for his 1923 passport. The lauded American writer would have gotten a fair bit of use out of this and all subsequent such documents, traveling as he did to France, Spain, Africa and Cuba, among other places, within his lifetime.

16. Katharine Hepburn

The winning smile and well-presented appearance of Katharine Hepburn in this passport photo mask a movie star who in her era was seen as being a little unconventional.

Image: Via Viralnova

For instance, the record four-time Oscar-winner once wandered about a Hollywood studio in her underclothes after her pants had been seized by wardrobe staff. She also shunned the attention of her fans to the point where on, one occasion, she told a group of them, "Go sit on a tack!"

Image: Via Viralnova

15. Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn Monroe once remarked that the only thing she wore to bed was a spritz of Chanel No. 5. The legendary actress appears rather more covered up in this passport photo, though, which nevertheless shows off the bottle-blonde bombshell in all her glamorous glory.

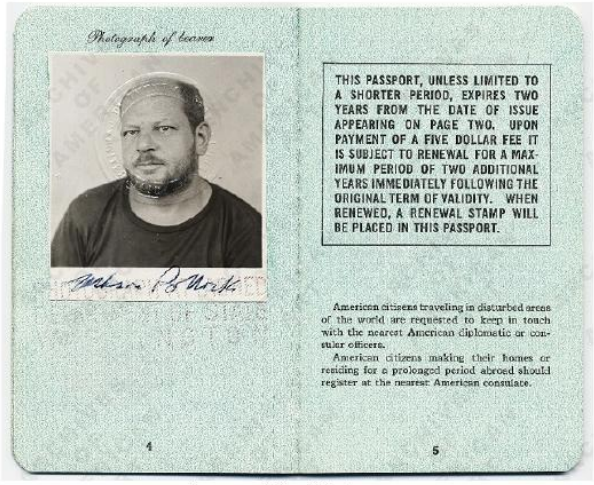

Image: Via Viralnova

14. Jackson Pollock

Jackson Pollock's passport photograph is certainly no outlandish work of art like his famous "action paintings," but then splashing paint onto an official document would probably be slightly inappropriate. Pollock's potentially messy working method garnered him the nickname "Jack the Dripper," although "Jack the Chipper" could also have been an apt epithet given the abstract expressionist's – albeit perhaps less celebrated – foray into sculpture.

13. John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy

Interestingly, the 1952 and 1953 stamps seen in JFK and Jackie Kennedy's passports coincide with the years of John's senatorial campaign and the couple's wedding, respectively. Presidents are actually supplied with special, free-of-charge diplomatic passports bearing a black cover. Well, there have got to be some perks of the job; this and doubtless a few others.

Image: Via Viralnova

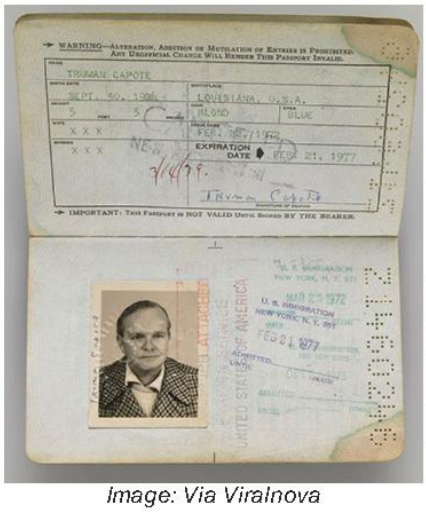

Image: Via Viralnova

12. Truman Capote

Although best known for his enduring works *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1958) and *In Cold Blood* (1966), Truman Capote also plied his trade as a travel writer, albeit using an earlier passport than this. Of a certain Italian city he visited, he once quipped, "Venice is like eating an entire box of chocolate liqueurs in one go."

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

11. Virginia Woolf

This passport of Virginia Woolf's is stamped 1923, which was just a few years before the publication of two of her most celebrated works – 1925's *Mrs. Dalloway* and 1927's *To the Lighthouse*. One of the writer's signatures on the document also hints at her real first name: Adeline.

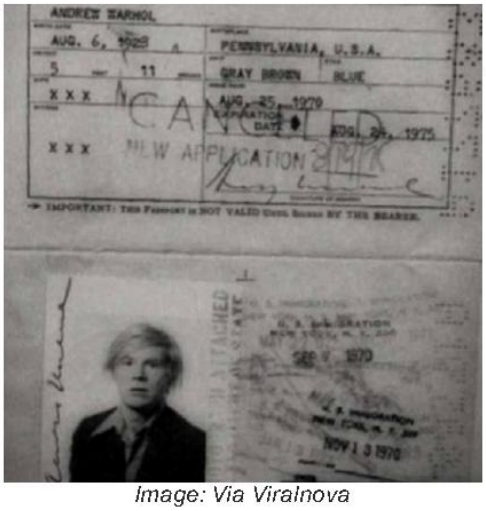

Image: Via Viralnova

10. Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol's passport lists his hair color as "gray brown," though the pop artist's most iconic – and decidedly unnatural – mop was as much blonde as brunette. Warhol reportedly had

over 40 hairpieces, which were created using locks brought in from Italy and fashioned into wigs by a craftsperson in New York.

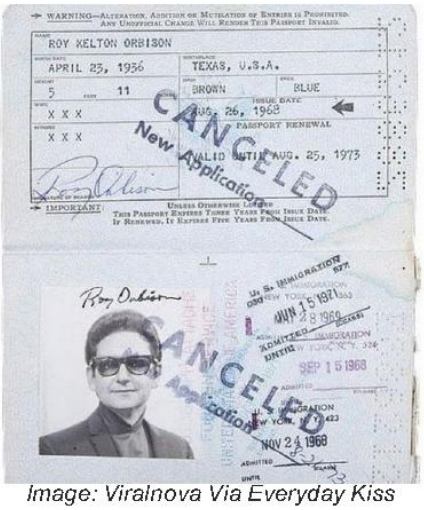

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

9. Roy Orbison

When he was approaching the end of his life, singer-songwriter Roy Orbison was part of supergroup the Traveling Wilburys, though he undoubtedly did some traveling of his own as a solo star during the early 1960s. Incidentally, his unusual middle moniker, "Kelton," was passed down to his fourth son, Roy Kelton Orbison, Jr.

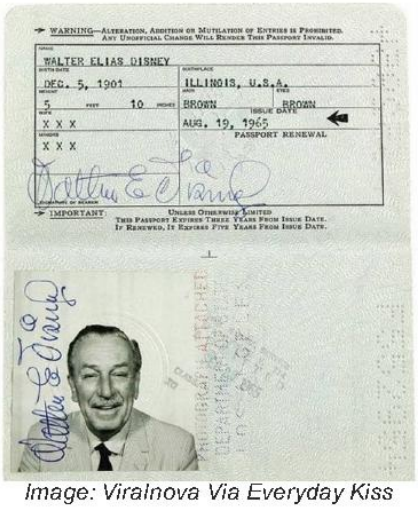

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

8. Walt Disney

Walt Disney passed on in December 1966, not much more than a year after this passport was issued, but his legacy is still clearly evident across the globe. Indeed, millions will have no doubt gotten their own passports just to visit the Disney theme parks in California, Florida, Paris, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

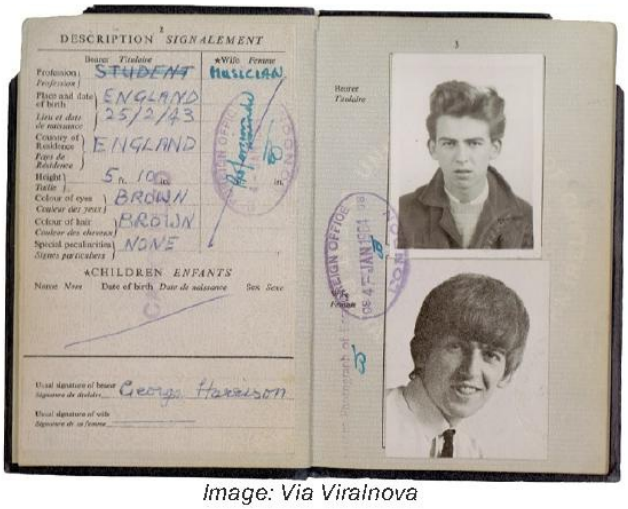

Image: Via Viralnova

7. George Harrison

In the profession field of this passport, George Harrison rightly crossed out "student" and filled in "musician." By early 1964, a date stamped on the document, Harrison was already enjoying incredible success as a mop-topped member of The Beatles and was using his passport to travel the world.

6. F. Scott Fitzgerald

Just visible under the crosshatching on F. Scott Fitzgerald's passport are photos of his wife Zelda and their only child Frances. The couple's marriage was by all accounts tempestous, blighted by distrust, drinking and mental illness, but the Fitzgeralds remained wed for two decades, up until F. Scott's death in 1940.

5. David Bowie

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

Although David Bowie won hearts with his colorful alter ego Ziggy Stardust, this passport photo proves that he could still pass for a regular Joe. It appears that even men who fell to Earth are bound by the planet's laws of travel documentation.

4. James Joyce

This century-old passport was utilized by James Joyce in Europe while he was penning his masterpiece, *Ulysses*, but there's even a little fiction on the document itself. Nora Barnacle is listed as Joyce's wife, whereas the pair were actually only wed in 1931, 16 years after the passport was issued.

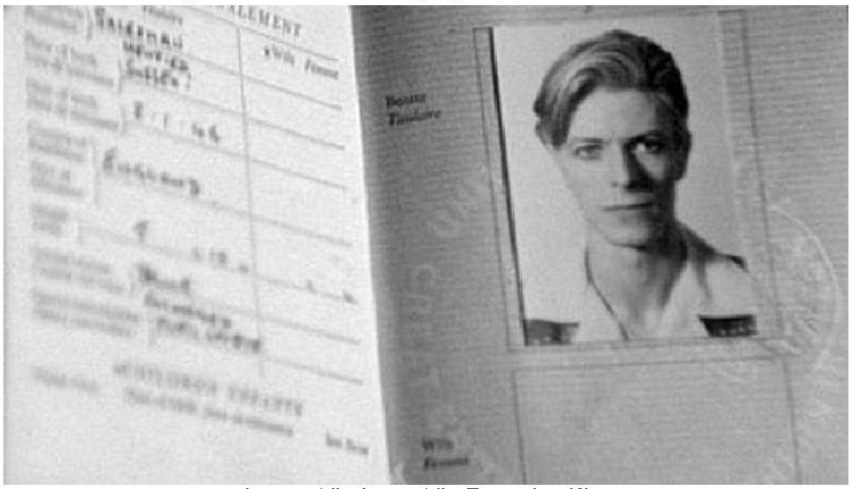

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

3. James Brown

Even godfathers of soul need passports, particularly if they toured as hard as James Brown did. During much of his performing heyday, Brown routinely only rested one night a week, a regime that garnered him another well-merited sobriquet: "The Hardest-Working Man in Show Business."

Image: Viralnova Via Everyday Kiss

2. Marvin Gaye

A fresh-faced Marvin Gaye is seen in this passport, which was issued around the time of a number of his chart successes in the 1960s. Nearly two decades later, the troubled soul star would use a similar document to relocate to Ostend, Belgium, where he apparently attempted to live a more wholesome existence.

1. Bob Dylan

Image: Via Viralnova

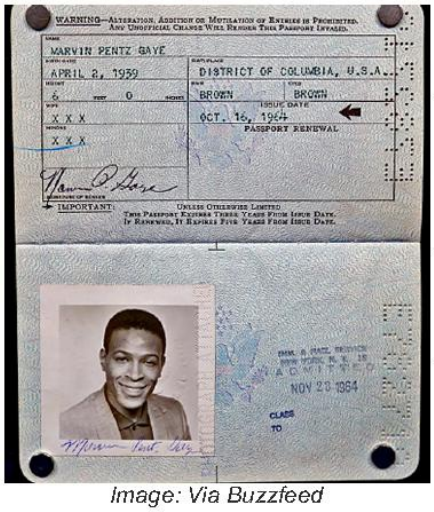

Image: Via Buzzfeed

Bob Dylan was born on May 24, 1941. However, this passport states that the iconic singer-songwriter arrived into the world on May 11, making him a full 13 days older. Was this a clerical blunder or a spot of trickery on the artist's – or somebody else's – part?

Image: Via Buzzfeed

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300-year-old sex toy discovered by archaeologists digging up 18th century toilet

- 17:46, 15 April 2015
- By Sarah Ridley

One archeologist said: "It is quite thick and rather large, made of leather and filled with bristles... It was probably dropped by someone"

A 300-year-old leather sex toy has been found by archaeologists buried in an 18th century toilet.

The eight-inch dildo, with a wooden head, was discovered during an excavation dig at an old school of swordsmanship in Gdansk, Poland.

A spokesman for the Regional Office for the Protection of Monuments in Gdansk said: "It was found in the latrine and dates back to the second half of the 18th century.

CEN

Sex toy: The eight-inch dildo dates back to the 18th century

"It is quite thick and rather large, made of leather and filled with bristles, and has a wooden tip that has preserved in excellent condition. It was probably dropped by someone in the toilet.

"Whether that was by accident or on purpose is anyone's guess though."

Archaeologists at the site earlier discovered old swords leading them to suspect that the place was once a school of swordsmanship.

The sex toy has now been taken away for preservation work.

Dildos have been found in some form throughout history, with Upper Palaeolithic artefacts previously discovered thought to have been used for sexual pleasure.

And an Austrian museum even has the world's oldest condom on display together with four other condom fragments dating from around 1650.

These too were found in a toilet in Dudley Castle in the West Midlands.

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5 Corpses Found in Coffins at Supermarket in Klosterfelde, Germany

By Andy Eckardt nbcnews.com

MAINZ, Germany — Public health officials were stunned to find five dead bodies at an abandoned supermarket in Germany.

A local undertaker had received permission to use the building's storage rooms to keep empty coffins and other equipment in the eastern city of Klosterfelde.

However, five corpses were discovered inside the caskets in a refrigerated area after a tip-off, local official Elisabeth Schulte-Kuhnt told NBC News on Wednesday.

Local newspaper MOZ reported Tuesday that public medical officer Heike Zander was "shocked when she saw what was being stored in a supermarket in the middle of town" during a visit last week.

But authorities could find little wrong with the undertaker's methods.

The condition of the deceased and the temperature they were being stored at were "according to the rules" and therefore not in violation of Germany's hygiene laws, county spokesman Oliver Koehler told NBC News. The undertaker also had the correct paperwork.

Officials are now looking into whether the correct request was filed with local planning officials to notify them that he was using the building for a different purpose.

The corpses were transported to a crematorium after being recovered on Thursday.

First published May 13th 2015, 12:01 pm

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7 Lost American Slang Words

April 23, 2015 npr.org

In American English, some slang words come and go. And some stay and stay.

Or as Walt Whitman poetically observed in his 1885 defense of American slang, complete with creative spelling: "Slang ... is the wholesome fermentation or eructation of those processes eternally active in language, by which froth and specks are thrown up, mostly to pass away; though occasionally to settle and permanently chrystallize."

What gives a slang word stickability?

"I have no idea what makes a slang word stick," says Tom Dalzell, author of a slew of books on slang, including *Vietnam War Slang* and *Flappers 2 Rappers: American Youth Slang*. "Connie Eble from the University of North Carolina has our best corpus of American college slang, and she estimates that only about 10 percent of the slang terms used survive a year."

Dalzell jaws, "What makes 'cool' last for 68 years without fading? What is it about 'hip' that let it morph into hep, hipcat, hepcat, hipster, hippie (jazz sense), hippie (flower child), hip-hop, and hipster — new hipster? Why did groovy go from very popular in 1945 to dead to back to life in 1965? There is no predicting whether a new word will stick. None at all."

From the trash bin of popular culture, here are seven long-lost slang words from America's past:

1) Moll buzzer, 1870s. A criminal, especially a pickpocket or a pickpocket's accomplice, who preys on women. **Example:** Habitual criminal Molly Holbrook "has taken as her companion one Jim Hoya who is known to the police detectives as a 'moll buzzer,' a man who follows a female pickpocket about, and receives from her the 'leathers' taken from a woman in public gatherings." From the Chicago *Daily Tribune* on July 26, 1874.

2) Dingus, 1890s. A nebulous, unspecified object. **Example:** Nineteenth century slang may have crescendoed in the 1890s with this report on a new game: Tiddledywinks. "You take a wink, put it on the dingus, press a tiddledy on the wink and make it jump into the winkpot. ... If you succeed, you are entitled to a difficiety and for every wink you jump into the dingpot, from the duwink you count a flictiddledy and you keep on operating the tinkwinkle upon the pollywog until the points so carried equal the sum total of the bogwip multiplied by the putertinktum and added to the contents of the winkpot or words to that effect and you have won the game." From the *Tribune* in McCook, Neb., on April 24, 1891. And, while writing about operating a coal stove, a Wisconsin person noted this in the *Appeal* in Memphis, Tenn., on Dec. 28, 1873: "We turned every dingus in the stove that was movable."

3) Spizzerinctum, 1920s. High spirits, nerve. **Example:** A Baptist Sunday school class seeking new recruits advertised: "Red hot lessons with pep and spizzerinctum — a room to ourselves — and we're going to have a larger class than the girls." From the *Headlight* in Deming, N.M., on Jan. 23, 1920.

4) Woofy, 1920s. A nonsense word — from flapper slang — that could be inserted into just about any context. **Example:** "When Shirley appeared on the beach, she was wearing oil-skin tights, painted over with birds and hearts and things, sort of woofy, if you get me." From *The New York Times* on May 8, 1922.

5) Bazoo, 1940s. Mouth. **Example:** "Senator Bilbo settled down on the good salary and side-graft of the office and never opened his bazoo." From the *Daily News* in Ludington, Mich., on March 7, 1949.

6) Fracture, 1950s. Fill with delight, causing laughter. **Example:** In a movie review, entertainer Frankie Laine said, "*Born Yesterday* fractured me, had me in the aisle. Judy Holliday is terrific." From the *Daily Courier* in Connellsville, Pa., on March 29, 1951.

7) Ginchy, 1950s. Excellent. **Example:** Columnist Stan Delaplane wrote of hearing the hit song "Tan Shoes and Pink Shoelaces" coming from his 15-year-old daughter's room. "For hours I could hear the radio — tuned to a — ginchy, I believe is the word — tuned to a ginchy station." From the *Standard-Examiner* in Ogden, Utah, on May 12, 1959.

We asked Tom Dalzell if he ever worries that American English might become so overwhelmed by slang words that daily discourse becomes too fractious to serve as a common tongue.

"One function of slang," Dalzell explains, "is to establish membership in a group, and so the possibility exists that regional and local slangs might Balkanize American English, but I don't see this happening."

(This post has been updated.)

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The Girl Who Would Live Forever

2015-04-16 13:00:00 vice.com

Written by Brian Merchant

April 16, 2015 // 08:00 AM EST

Two-year-old Matheryn Naovaratpong. Image provided by the family. Alcor's facility in Scottsdale. Image: Xavier Aaronson Matheryn's brain now resides in a Dewar like this. Image: Xavier Aaronson

Matheryn Naovaratpong was two years and two months old when she didn't wake up on the morning of April 19th, 2014. She was rushed to a hospital in Bangkok, where doctors discovered an 11 centimeter-long tumor in the left half of her brain. Matheryn—her family called her Einz for short—had ependymoblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer that afflicts the very young. The prognosis is exceedingly grim; at its highest, the five-year survival rate is 30 percent. Einz had fallen into a coma.

In that first surgery, doctors extracted half the tumor and drilled through Einz's skull to relieve the pressure on her brain. After it was over, they told her parents, both of whom are PhD-holding scientists, that she would probably never awaken. Even if she did, they said, the cancer was incurable—the hospital advised them to take Matheryn off life support.

"But in a week," Dr. Sahatorn Naovaratpong told me in an email, "Einz woke up and regained her 2 years' consciousness, she responded to stimulation, and surprised everyone. Einz represents the worth of Life." Sahatorn is Matheryn's father. (He spoke to me via email through his sister Dararat, who translated the messages.)

The event inspired the family to push on with treatment. "We decided to fight against this cancer," Sahatorn told me. "We may not beat it, but her life can lead to a further step of mankind to overcome cancer in the future."

Over the next year, the two-year-old would receive 12 brain surgeries, 20 chemotherapy treatments, and 20 radiation therapy sessions. Einz lost 80 percent of her left brain, essentially paralyzing the right side of her body. There were moments of great hope and pitched sorrow; Sahatorn described the period as an emotional roller coaster.

"[W]e noticed a power struggling for life in her beautiful round eyes," he said. "Finally, Einz was able to stand up on her feet again and could see with both eyes, as if she had survived from brain cancer. Couldn't help wishing she could be back to her normal childhood even with only a single right brain."

She regained her vision, the ability to stand, and, with therapy, began moving some parts of the right side of her body. She outlasted other patients in the treatment ward, according to Sahatorn. Many ependymoblastoma victims perish before they turn two.

The Naovaratpong family began doing social media outreach to raise awareness of childhood cancer, and started a genetic cancer research foundation. “Let Einz be the first to guide us,” was their motto, Sahatorn said.

But in November 2014, the cancer spread across Matheryn’s brain, and finally paralyzed her face and muscles.

“We realized it was the end,” Sahatorn said. “We had to prepare to say goodbye.” On January 8th, 2015, Matheryn was released from the hospital. She was fully conscious.

“Among family and relatives, we played and held her before we relieved her from the life support system, released her heavy load off her shoulder at 18:18,” Sahatorn told me. The “cancer cells and other cells from her body have been kept for further study.”

“Her body has been cryopreserved in Arizona awaiting coming technology,” he said.

This year, Matheryn Naovaratpong became the youngest person to be cryogenically frozen and preserved for future revival.

*****

"Prior to her, the youngest we had done was a 21-year-old female," said Aaron Drake, the Medical Response Director at the Alcor Life Extension Foundation. "It ranges all the way up to 102, the oldest person we’ve preserved."

Alcor is one of the largest organizations that practices cryonics, the act of preserving humans and mammals in a freezing “biostasis” for later resuscitation. Alcor’s chief mission objectives are as follows: “Maintain the current patients in biostasis. Place current and future members into biostasis (when and if needed). Eventually restore to health and reintegrate into society all patients in Alcor's care.” For a fee, Alcor claims to be able to preserve the bodies that have deteriorated beyond modern medicine’s ability to help, until the day that science and biotech might improve enough to restore them.

Over the years, Alcor’s physicians and technicians have performed over 130 cryopreservations. Matheryn is their latest patient.

As a whole, the field of cryonics has been undergoing something of a renaissance. In the last decade, an open letter declaring cryonics “a legitimate science-based endeavor” has collected 63 signatures from doctors and researchers, the practice has become a core plank of the transhumanist movement, and its key players have crept steadily closer to the mainstream spotlight. Cryonics has earned high-profile supporters; baseball legend Ted Williams was famously frozen by Alcor.

In the process, the company has contended with accusations of impropriety—in an exposé

book and an interview with ABC, an ex-Alcor employee claimed that the company used a chisel and a hammer to remove one patient's head, and that it may have administered a lethal drug dose to a still-living member. Alcor denies the allegations, and filed a lawsuit against the employee.

The major cryonics organizations are still based solely in the US (the Cryonics Institute, for instance, is probably Alcor's largest "competitor"). Besides Alcor's UK chapter, the only other serious international operation is a fledgling Russian outfit, KrioRus. But due to renewed interest and the expanding reach of social media, word has spread far abroad.

"The family learned about Alcor on the internet," Marji Klima, a spokesperson for Alcor told me. "They were both doctors. After they did 11 surgeries, when they realized that she wasn't going to be able to pull through, they contacted us."

Alcor agreed to accept Matheryn as a patient, and enrolled her as a member. The initial plan was to fly Einz to the United States while she was still alive, so Alcor's team could perform the procedure domestically. That procedure is complex and highly invasive; the BBC calls it "intense."

Two-year-old Matheryn Naovaratpong. Image provided by the family. Alcor's facility in Scottsdale. Image: Xavier Aaronson Matheryn's brain now resides in a Dewar like this. Image: Xavier Aaronson

It involves moving the patient onto an ice bed, coating her in freezing materials, artificially restarting the heart with a "heart-lung-resuscitator," administering over a dozen different medications, draining the blood and replacing it with medical grade antifreeze, opening the chest cavity to attach the major blood vessels to a machine that flushes out all remaining blood, then slowly lowering the body's temperature, at a rate of 1° Celsius every hour. (After two weeks, the body reaches deep cryofreeze at -196° C.) Alcor had selected a well-equipped pediatrics hospital in California for the job.

"It was hoped that this young 2-year-old girl was going to relocate to this hospital as her health declined so distance would be minimized," Drake told me in an email. "Unfortunately, her breathing declined more quickly than her doctors anticipated and two days before she was to fly to the US, she was placed on a ventilator, essentially eliminating the possibility for airline travel."

Alcor would have to go to her.

"We decided to have a physician go," Klima said, "because of her age and her size, they wanted someone who was very skilled. When you're looking at the vasculature of a small child like that, it's a very different thing. And this was a small child with multiple brain tumors."

So Alcor flew Drake and Dr. Jose Kanshepolsky, a retired neurosurgeon, to Thailand. They spent two days on "standby," Alcor's term for the phase of the cryopreservation process in which physicians remain stationed near the ailing member, waiting for her to pass and preparing for the procedure. Kanshepolsky examined the girl at the hospital before she was taken home, and discovered an alarming complication: since so much of her brain had been removed, her skull had filled with cerebrospinal fluid, which would make the procedure difficult.

"We typically drill two holes in the skull, so we can visually see the brain. If the brain begins to contract, it shows it's working," Drake said. That's because the medical antifreeze Alcor uses dries the brain, and shrinks it. Alcor technicians also insert crucial instruments through the perforations. "Into those holes we'll insert thermo-couplings, temperature probes basically, to monitor the brain temperature," Drake said.

Because there was so much fluid, Dr. Kanshepolsky decided to hold off on extracting the brain, but to begin the full-body preservation process instead.

> **Matheryn's procedure was what Alcor calls a "neuro" in shorthand—where ultimately, just the brain is extracted and preserved, as opposed to the entire body**

According to Drake, they decided "to undertake cryoprotective perfusion of Matheryn's brain in Thailand." The team decided to do so without separating her brain from the rest of the body. "This worked out to be an effective way to move through the repatriation process and back to the US," Drake wrote in a post-procedure synopsis co-authored with Alcor CEO, Max More.

"On the second day, Matheryn was pronounced by a physician who was present at the bedside when clinical death occurred," they wrote. "A surgery suite had been prepared in an adjoining room and access to the patient for stabilization and perfusion was immediate. Alcor's field cryoprotection system was tested in the very remote field and proved effective."

The surgical procedure went off without incident. "It went very smoothly," Klima said. "It went better than some of the ones that happen right in our backyard."

But since this was in fact very far from Alcor's backyard, arrangements had to be made to transport Matheryn's body to Arizona.

"We have to comply with the funeral industry regulations," Drake said. "There are airline regulations that deal specifically with shipping human remains. In this case, we contacted with a mortuary company out of England, the same company that was involved in David Carradine's international shipment; remember how he died in Bangkok? They provided us with all the documents we needed to fill out and complete. Death certificates in Thai, and in the US, and a variety of things." Then it was time to prepare the body itself for travel.

"Typically we'd move the head from the trunk of the body," Drake told me. "We didn't know what their reaction would be from the family, the mortuary, from border officials; this has to go

through a number of shipping venues, customs, the TSA and so on. To see a frozen head in a box might have raised a number of red flags. In the US that's not a big deal, but there, they may not be accustomed." Instead, they kept the body intact, and frozen. "The entire patient was placed in a specially prepared dry ice shipping container and the cool down to dry ice temperature (-79 degrees C/-109 degrees F) began on-site," More and Drake wrote. It proved to be an astute calculation; the container passed inspection.

"After the US Embassy in Thailand approved the shipment, the container was topped off with dry ice and shipped by airline to LAX for customs approval," according to the official account. There, Alcor enlisted its mortuary agent in Buena Park to take the container. Drake and another Alcor operative drove down to collect it in what Klima called an Alcor response vehicle. They topped off the container with dry ice, loaded it into the truck, got the necessary transit permits, and brought the human cargo back to Scottsdale. "The neuro separation was performed at Alcor after arrival and Matheryn became Alcor's 134th patient," according to the company.

Matheryn's procedure was what Alcor calls a "neuro" in shorthand—where ultimately, just the brain is extracted and preserved, as opposed to the entire body. Her brain is now stored in a "Bigfoot Dewar," a stainless steel, vacuum-insulated container filled with liquid nitrogen and kept at -196˚C, along with dozens of other masses of grey matter. The core of Einz's two-year-old being now rests in cryofreeze in Arizona, in wait of a cure, and a means to regrow her body.

"It took a tremendous amount of logistical planning, but yes, we are very pleased with the results," Drake told me.

Two-year-old Matheryn Naovaratpong. Image provided by the family. Alcor's facility in Scottsdale. Image: Xavier Aaronson Matheryn's brain now resides in a Dewar like this. Image: Xavier Aaronson

The desire for eternal life—or even just another shot—is about as universal as it gets, so it's unsurprising that cryonics has begun to traverse international boundaries. "We have had a lot requests from overseas," Klima told me, but Alcor doesn't yet have the resources or the infrastructure to grant them all.

The expense is prohibitive, but not astronomical. A membership, which guarantees the signee the right to be put on "standby" (and earns him or her an Alcor Emergency ID tag), costs $770 a year, in addition to proof that financial arrangements for the final procedure have been made. Cryopreservation costs between $80,000 (for a "neuro") and $200,000 (for the full body), depending on how much of her mortal coil a customer wishes to maintain. Alcor suggests prospective members purchase life insurance to cover the costs.

"Our market is growing," Drake said. He attributes the interest to more attention from the media, the rise of social media, and open-minded youth. "The younger generation is more accustomed to seeing changes in technology. Any thing you can come up with, six months later, there's an app for it. The younger generation sees this and thinks 'sure why not'?—they can figure everything else out, so why not this? They feel this is kind of an inevitable thing."

As an organization, Alcor has been hesitant to promote itself, Drake said. "I think the board is fearful we'd be trying to 'sell' immortality. But social media is going to grow with or without us." And that's where its farthest flung customers are coming from.

Those who've heard about Alcor online and have gone seeking life extension services in Europe or elsewhere have started clubs, societies, and turned to web forums. One group of advocates was so hopeful for a European cryonics organization it was tricked into thinking a publicity stunt featuring a group called the Siberian Mammoth, which promised to preserve British rappers in permafrost, was real.

Parents are bringing their kids on board, even when they're not sick. "Our youngest member is three months old," Klima said. "Families sign them up." The process is legal, Drake says, if parents prove legal guardianship of the minors. "The parents can make the decision for the child while they're still a minor. The child can opt out if they choose."

Matheryn, the youngest member ever, meanwhile, was also Alcor's first patient to receive a field treatment in Asia. If their optimism is a bellwether, there will be more.

"Alcor provides the opportunity for Einz to breathe again when the technology is provided and appropriate for her disease," Matheryn's father said. Her family is grateful for Alcor, but they are not mindlessly idealistic. They are a family of doctors, and the lesson they took from their daughter's battle with cancer is that there are still considerable frontiers left to be examined when it comes to medicine and human physiology. Matheryn's life was made possible by modern science in the first place, Sahatorn said; she was carried by a surrogate because her mother had lost her uterus birthing a son.

"Treating cancer needs changes," Sahatorn said. "The conventional methods could not treat Ependymoblastoma and many types of cancer. We need more research about genetic cancers. Without research, there will be no change." To that end, Matheryn's parents will continue to promote the children's cancer research initiative they began, which will be managed by the Rama Foundation. Part of the reason they turned to Alcor was to continue the advancement of such research.

"They didn't want their daughter's life to end in vain," Drake said. "They're hoping that by preserving the tissue cells of this particular cancer, they can come up with a better treatment plan, and maybe even eventually cure it. If you look at the global picture of what they're trying to accomplish, it's very altruistic." The Naovaratpongs are never going to stop fighting their daughter's disease, ever.

"We used conventional methods for more than 50 years now," Sahatorn said. "It seemed to be hopeless until today."

Of course Alcor is all about hope. It's highly uncertain whether science will ever uncover a way to fundamentally repair the damaged bodies of the past. James Lovelock may have reanimated frozen rats, but that's a far cry from rejuvenating whole humans who have been locked in icy stasis for decades. It's a hope that is contingent on a great many future factors aligning.

"Obviously, we'd need to come up with a cure for cancer," Drake said. "Then, we've really thought that you're going to need to be able to regenerate a new body. The passé term is to clone a new body, but that's not how they do that anymore." He points to advances in 3D organ printing and tissue development, while also admitting that his entire enterprise may in fact never work, and is, at its heart, an "ever-progressing science experiment," though a valid one, Matheryn its most youthful subject.

"We know we can regenerate a small organ, and grow a new heart," he said. "We know we can 3-dimensionally print cells and hearts. So at some point we would need to regenerate her entire body, or at least her organs, and put it all together. Then we'd need to transplant that brain into a new body."

How do you then reanimate a deceased human body? Even the CEO of Alcor doesn't claim to know—he, along with thousands of the hopeful living, and hundreds of the frozen dead, have stocked their faith in the notion that science will find a way to thaw and revive the brain of a two-year-old girl.

"At least, we devoted her life and body for the progress and development of science," Nareerat, Matheryn's mother, told me in our lone communication. "This is also another treat for our family, we know that she's alive although we have been separated."

If the day somehow arrives when humans can resurrect their dead, at least Matheryn won't be alone. Her parents have pledged to become members of Alcor, too, so they might be reanimated together in some better future.

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A circus tragedy lost to history

A passing reference in 'Water for Elephants' reopens a tragic — but largely forgotten — chapter in Chicago history, and leads to the true story behind a mysterious memorial

May 02, 2011
By Christopher Borrelli, Tribune reporter
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-05-02/entertainment/ct-live-0503-showmens-rest-elephants-20110502_1_elephants-circus-cars-circus-tragedy

Richard Lytle tapped his cane against Mary Rudnick's headstone. "She was a performer," he said, reading the name on the grave. "Equestrian tricks, I want to say." The morning was wet and cold, and clumps of spring snow flattened the grass. He wore sandals and socks, and pulled his black satin jacket across his chest. He tapped on another grave. "Baldy," it read. Like the other headstone, it was dated June 22, 1918.

Lytle thought for a moment, then spoke. "Baldy was a driver," he said. "Probably. Nobody knows for sure. That's why it just says 'Baldy.' Most of these people couldn't be identified. Because of the fire, of course."

Or rather, most of these people couldn't be identified because of the train wreck, which led to the fire.

It's one of the Chicago area's great forgotten entertainment tragedies, and the irony is that we probably wouldn't even be standing here, in a cemetery on a cold day, considering its victims, if the accident hadn't received a mention in the best-selling novel "Water for Elephants" and the new movie adaptation, which opened April 22.

"The Hagenbeck-Wallace train, before the accident," says Hal Holbrook in the opening scene of "Water for Elephants," playing an aging circus hand scanning a wall of photographs, each an image from a long-gone circus, as his eyes well up.

Lytle is a librarian at the Hammond Public Library. He is 63, and last year he wrote "The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918." Most of its victims are buried here, in this cemetery. As if to illustrate the severity of the disaster, he swung his cane, ringmaster style, underlining what was evident: He was surrounded by rows of graves but only a dozen or so of the headstones had names. The rest had a generic identifier: "Unknown." There was "Unknown Male No. 15," "Unknown Female No. 43" — all the way up to "Unknown Male No. 61."

There are rumors about this place, just off of Cermak Road in Forest Park, just inside Woodlawn Cemetery, a plot bordered by five granite elephants, each with its right front foot on top of a circus ball.

Indeed, if you grew up around here, chances are you know the rumors better than the facts: You probably heard that the stone elephants in Woodlawn mark the graves of five elephants, casualties of a long-ago Forest Park circus train derailment. As legend has it, the elephants, who used their trunks to extinguish burning circus cars, only to die as heroes, were too heavy to be moved and were buried near the spot where they fell. The Brookfield Zoo is down the street; animal sounds occasionally carry through the air here. Nevertheless, ghosts of elephants (never) buried in Woodlawn Cemetery are said to trumpet late at night.

The facts are more harrowing.

"People who pass by that cemetery inevitably do a double take at those stone elephants," said John Goodall, who grew up in Chicago, watching circuses at Soldier Field, then later became president of the Circus World Museum in Wisconsin. "But that's before they hear the real reason all those bodies are there."

The plot is called Showmen's Rest; it was established by the Showmen's League of America and holds 750 graves. Most of those buried here worked for circuses or carnivals; they were circus owners, talent bookers, stunt pilots, high-wire acts, magicians, strongmen, animal trainers. No animals are buried here, though. The largest corner of the plot, the part holding those scores of unidentified bodies, is a mass grave, a result of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train wreck on June 22, 1918; it happened in northwest Indiana, between Gary and Hammond. At least 187 people were injured, and an estimated 86 were killed — according to news reports from the time, many of the bodies were so charred and pulled apart it was hard to finalize an exact count.

The flagman waved a lit flare at the speeding train, now bearing down. It was approaching too fast. His own train, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train, had stopped on the Michigan Central line. Engineers were cooling an overheated axle box. It was 4 a.m., June 22, 1918, just outside of Hammond. The circus train had left Michigan City hours before and was headed to Hammond for a show. The train behind it, a 21-car military troop transport, had left Michigan City about an hour later. It barreled forward now.

The troop train was empty. The driver, a 28-year Michigan Central veteran named Alonzo Sargent, was asleep inside. According to testimony, he passed two yellow signals of caution, then two red signals. In addition, the flagman had left a flare of warning on the tracks about a mile behind the stopped circus train.

Sargent passed this too.

Before the trains collided, the circus flagman testified, that in a last desperate attempt at getting the attention of the sleeping engineer, he flung his flare at the front window of the hurtling locomotive.

Thanks to the growth of railroads, in 1918 the traveling circus was in its heyday, said Steve Freese, executive director of the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wis. "It was the golden age

of the circus, and the primary entertainment for small Midwest towns. Hundreds lined the tracks just to watch them unload."

The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, formed in 1907 and headquartered in Peru, Ind. (now the site of the International Circus Hall of Fame), had become one of the most popular circuses in the country. Famed lion tamer Clyde Beatty was a member. So was a young Red Skelton, tagging alongside his father, a Hagenbeck-Wallace clown. The circus also had a history of trouble: train wrecks, fires, even a flood, which killed eight elephants.

Nevertheless, remnants remain. Circus World lent vintage Hagenbeck-Wallace wagons to the production of "Water for Elephants," including animal cages and baggage wagons. "There was really no way we could have ever built them from scratch," said David Crank, the film's art director. "And we had to repaint them, to match the circus that's in the film. But really, it was like handling this whole world that nobody remembers anymore. Those circus wagons were, like, 5,000 pounds apiece. You can't imagine a wreck of these things."

The military train, made of steel, hit the circus cars at 35 mph, slicing through the caboose, then two cars of sleeping crew, then a car carrying black employees, then a car filled with performers. The circus cars were made of wood, and splintered before piling up. Survivors later said the cars were jumbled so high that as they climbed from the wreckage they found themselves standing above nearby telegraph wires.

Many died during the initial collision; many more died from the resulting fire. The old-fashioned cars were still lit by kerosene lanterns. The Flying Wards, a trapeze act, lost a member; every one of the McDhu Sisters, who rode elephants and did aerial stunts, died. Two strongmen died. Joe Coyle, the father in a family clown act, escaped, but watched from the road as his wife and sons died in the fire, just out of reach.

The circus traveled with about 50 cars, in two sets. Most of the performers and crew had been asleep in the second set. The animals were in the first, 90 minutes ahead of the collision. None died. According to a Tribune story that ran the day after the accident, the first set pulled into Hammond and sat unloaded as "a silent group" stood around "the big boss in charge," who solemnly checked off a roster of employees.

Debra Weathers-Lee is a family service counselor at Woodlawn. She's worked here six years. On a recent morning, as a funeral procession filed out of a nearby room, she spoke in low, respectful tones. "You see the tour buses over at Showmen's Rest, especially in summer," she said. And the tourists climb from those buses, she added, and they walk around the plot holding the soda cups from nearby fast-food joints.

The plot was established in 1917 by the Showmen's League, now based on Fulton Market; its first president was William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who died four years after the league's creation in 1913 (and is buried in Colorado). After he died, the league bought the plot of land in Woodlawn for $1,500. The elephants, each with its trunk lowered in mourning, weren't added until years after the train wreck.

Still, people always come in and ask where the elephants are buried and where the trains crashed nearby, Weathers-Lee said. She pulled out a scrapbook and flipped the pages, stopping at a sad, grainy photo, a picture from the funeral. The mass grave was 35 feet by 24 feet. The coffins arrived in three trucks. Playwright George M Cohan, whose family had toured in vaudeville, sent a flower arrangement. About 1,500 circus people attended the burial. In the photograph, the crowd appeared to be five deep.

"At least five," Weathers-Lee said.

The worst circus disaster of all time was a 1944 fire at a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey show in Hartford, Conn. It killed 168 people. The next-worst is the Hagenbeck-Wallace train crash. The circus disaster, however, that serves as the finale to "Water for Elephants" is fictitious, but as a character tells Holbrook (who claims to have been a witness to the great stampede of 1931), "Well, after the Hartford fire and Hagenbeck-Wallace wreck, that's the most famous circus disaster of all time!"

The Showmen's League says 56 bodies from the wreck are buried in Showmen's Rest; news accounts from the time say 53people from the accident were buried here; and headstones in the Hagenbeck-Wallace plot go to "Unknown Male No. 61." An accurate casualty number is unlikely, for reasons beyond the fire. Many of the circus employees who died were roustabouts, "itinerant workers, folks with no life outside of the traveling circus world, who would come in and put up circus tents, perform various jobs for a circus then disappear at the end of the season," Goodall said. "Records weren't kept well back then for roustabouts. They might be with a circus for 24 hours, so you never got to know their name, let alone write it down."

After the wreck, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus canceled only one show, the Hammond performance. Circuses around the country pitched in and lent performers and according to the Showmen's League, within a day of the disaster the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus was performing its scheduled show in Wisconsin.

Sargent was arrested after the accident and charged with manslaughter. Despite being found responsible by federal transportation officials — the cause was sleeping on the job, they said — he was acquitted.

The rest of this history is a mix of the good, sad and curious. The accident led to regulations mandating sleep for train crews. Joe Dierckx, the only surviving member of the Great Dierckx Brothers strongman act, married his nurse, a sister of Knute Rockne. Oddly, nine years later, a passenger train moving through Aurora hit a herd of elephants being loaded onto another Hagenbeck-Wallace train; there was one fatality, a handler riding one of the elephants was thrown to the ground and crushed to death when the animal tumbled. The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus itself continued for years, was sold in 1929 to Ringling Bros., then, battered by the Depression, closed for good two decades after the Indiana wreck.

As for that wreck — it's a show business footnote, mentioned in "Water for Elephants," the

subject of two books and a recent Forest Park haunted house ("The Greatest Show UN-Earthed!"). But probably the only work of fiction to consider it in depth was "Roustabout," a 2006 play from Chicago's Neo-Futurists theater.

"For me, I was indulging some romantic idea of who would remember me, or what would happen to me when I was gone," said playwright Jay Torrence. "In my head, for these circus performers to die in such a spectacle, and then disappear and never be known again, I found that so achingly beautiful."

As a memorial, it'll have to do. There's nothing at Showmen's Rest — or at the site of the tragedy, in Indiana — that mentions the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus disaster, the loss of life or anything about June 22, 1918.

This didn't bother Lytle, the Hammond librarian.

"I'm glad to see more people buried here," he said, noting the recent dates on a few of the stones scattered around Showmen's Rest. "And I'm glad that there's room for other circus folk in this corner of the cemetery." He did not choke up. He stepped through a puddle. The ominous sky resembled a vast limestone cotton ball.

"It should be a living place. That's how I see it — a reminder of professionalism, the stick-to-itiveness of circus communities. Not just a place for people who died in a big train wreck. It tells us the show goes on."

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A GIANT'S ROCK-THROWING

A POINT of land on the northwestern coast of the island Oahu is called Kalae-o-Kaena which means "The Cape of Kaena."

A short distance from this cape lies a large rock which bears the name Pohaku-o-Kauai, or rock of Kauai, a large island northwest of Oahu. This rock is as large as a small house.

There is an interesting legend told on the island of Oahu which explains why these names have for generations been fastened to the cape and to the rock. A long time ago there lived on Kauai a man of wonderful power, Hau-pu. When he was born, the signs of a demi-god were over the house of his birth. Lightning flashed through the skies, and thunder reverberated--a rare event in the Hawaiian Islands, and supposed to be connected with the birth or death or some very unusual occurrence in the life of a chief.

Mighty floods of rain fell and poured in torrents

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down the mountain-sides, carrying the red iron soil into the valleys in such quantities that the rapids and the waterfalls became the color of blood, and the natives called this a blood-rain.

During the storm, and even after sunshine filled the valley, a beautiful rainbow rested over the house in which the young chief was born. This rainbow was thought to come from the miraculous powers of the new-born child shining out from him instead of from the sunlight around him. Many chiefs throughout the centuries of Hawaiian legends were said to have had this rainbow around them all their lives.

Hau-pu while a child was very powerful, and after he grew up was widely known as a great warrior. He would attack and defeat armies of his enemies without aid from any person. His spear was like a mighty weapon, sometimes piercing a host of enemies, and sometimes putting aside all opposition when he thrust it into the ranks of his opponents.

If he had thrown his spear and if fighting with his bare hands did not vanquish his foes, he would leap to the hillside, tear up a great tree, and with it sweep away all before him as if he were wielding a huge broom. He was known and feared throughout all the Hawaiian Islands. He became angry quickly and used his great powers very rashly.

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One night he lay sleeping in his royal rest-house on the side of a mountain which faced the neighboring island of Oahu. Between the two islands lay a broad channel about thirty miles wide. When clouds were on the face of the sea, these islands were hidden from each other; but when they lifted, the rugged valleys of the mountains on one island could be clearly seen from the other. Even by moonlight the shadowy lines would appear.

This night the strong man stirred in his sleep. Indistinct noises seemed to surround his house. He turned over and dropped off into slumber again.

Soon he was aroused a second time, and he was awake enough to hear shouts of men far, far away. Louder rose the noise mixed with the roar of the great surf waves, so he realized that it came from the sea, and he then forced himself to rise and stumble to the door.

He looked out toward Oahu. A multitude of lights were flashing on the sea before his sleepy eyes. A low murmur of many voices came from the place where the dancing lights seemed to be. His confused thoughts made it appear to him that a great fleet of warriors was coming from Oahu to attack his people.

He blindly rushed out to the edge of a high precipice which overlooked the channel. Evidently

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many boats and many people were out in the sea below.

He laughed, and stooped down and tore a huge rock from its place. This he swung back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, until he gave it great impetus which added to his own miraculous power sent it far out over the sea. Like a great cloud it rose in the heavens and, as if blown by swift winds, sped on its way.

Over on the shores of Oahu a chief whose name was Kaena had called his people out for a night's fishing. Canoes large and small came from all along the coast. Torches without number had been made and placed in the canoes. The largest fish-nets had been brought.

There was no need of silence. Nets had been set in the best places. Fish of all kinds were to be aroused and frightened into the nets. Flashing lights, splashing paddles, and clamor from hundreds of voices resounded all around the nets.

Gradually the canoes came nearer and nearer the centre. The shouting increased. Great joy ruled the tumult which drowned the roar of the waves.

Across the channel and up the mountain-sides of Kauai swept the shouts of the fishing-party. Into the ears of drowsy Hau-pu the noise forced itself. Little dreamed the excited fishermen of the effect of this on far-away Kauai.

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Suddenly something like a bird as large as a mountain seemed to be above, and then with a mighty sound like the roar of winds it descended upon them.

Smashed and submerged were the canoes when the huge boulder thrown by Hau-pu hurled itself upon them.

The chief Kaena and his canoe were in the centre of this terrible mass of wreckage, and he and many of his people lost their lives.

The waves swept sand upon the shore until in time a long point of land was formed. The remaining followers of the dead chief named this cape "Kaena."

The rock thrown by Hau-pu embedded itself in the depths of the ocean, but its head rose far above the water, even when raging storms dashed turbulent waves against it. To this death-dealing rock the natives gave the name "Rock of Kauai."

Thus for generations has the deed of the man of giant force been remembered on Oahu, and so have a cape and a rock received their names.

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A Japanese Artist Uses Wool Felt To Make A Giant, Super-Realistic Cat Mask wimp.com

Apr. 21, 2015

Needle-felting master Housetu Sato is, apparently, a cat person. An instructor at the Japanese School of Wool Art (yes, there is such a thing), Sato and his students recently created this giant, super-realistic cat mask out of sheep's wool felt. The mask is part of an exhibit that will be on display at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum April 18-23, 2015.

Since the Internet loves all things cat-related, the mask has become a viral sensation online. While everyone agrees that it's incredibly well made, opinions remain thoroughly divided on whether it's disturbing or cute.

Currently, there are no plans to sell it, but Sato said he's certainly open to creating more. It's hard to imagine something like this having a hard time finding customers, so hopefully he's convinced and we can eventually get our hands on one of these.

Wimp.com

A New Home for Zaffis' Paranormal Museum? - Who Forted? Magazine

By Ken Summers on April 5, 2015 whofortedblog.com

A New Home for Zaffis' Paranormal Museum?

Zaffis_McBride

John Zaffis, the *Haunted Collector* himself, is on the move. After searching long and hard for a suitable new home for his Museum of the Paranormal, he has found a fitting new location inside a former funeral parlor in the small town of Adams, Massachusetts. Even better, the large vacant building had a list price of only $79,000. On March 23, the Planning Board finally approved plans for rezoning the former funeral home for the purposes of Zaffis' museum of 'haunted objects.' Plans include more than just a museum showcasing ever-changing exhibits of allegedly haunted artifacts; he plans to give lectures there, hold ghost hunts, and even weddings. With planning out of the way, all that's left is the purchase of the building and moving of his collection.

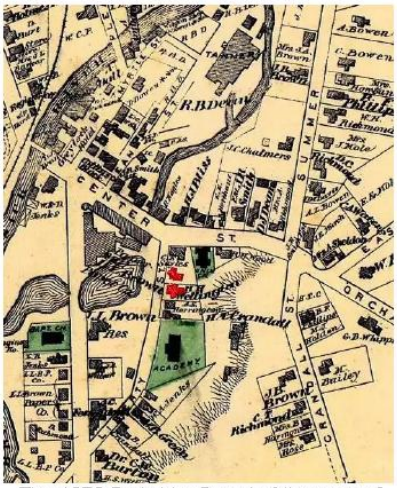
If you're worried that the building might face major remodeling, Zaffis told reporters, "I love the way it was laid out it was perfect the way the rooms are. I don't have to alter anything… at this point in time, as far as alterations, there isn't much I want to do. I love it the way it is."

The former McBride Funeral Home on Liberty Street in Adams, MA. (Scott Stafford, N. Berkshire Eagle)

Realtor records claim the house was built around 1900; Zaffis told reporters that half of the building was a former parsonage for the nearby church that was later attached via an extension to the funeral home. One local reporter stated that the building has been empty for a decade. Unfortunately, you shouldn't rely on what any realtor (or reporter, even) tells you. Apparently, all of these facts are actually wrong.

"I don't think there is really much with the building, and it is more so with my items because all of those have been removed from haunted locations," Zaffis said. "I think people will be more interested in that than just per say the building." But the truth is, this building has a rather long and interesting history well worth telling visitors.

6 Liberty Street (originally the south half of the current building) appears on atlas maps dating back as early as 1876. It was once the residence of Dr. Harry Bigelow Holmes. Together with his father Horace, Dr. Holmes had a practice in town and was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Before becoming a physician, he worked for a Chicago mercantile then spent a year working for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad. His home was at 37 Park Street.



The 1876 Berkshire County Atlas map of South Adams clearly shows both buildings (highlighted in red) at their current location.

On October 24, 1898, according to the North Adams *Transcript*, Dr. Holmes married Angeline Maria Sayles. The reception was held at Angeline's home which would eventually become the second half of 6 Liberty Street. Angeline was the daughter of Charles Franklin Sayles, a civil engineer who designed a new plan for Maple Street Cemetery in 1869, who married in 1869 and moved to Liberty Street shortly thereafter. (Charles' house has since been razed.) Before that, he was heavily involved with surveying for several railroads. Between 1859 and 1860, his first work in that field was as a rodman for a surveyor working on the nearby Hoosac Tunnel.

Yes, the *haunted* Hoosac Tunnel.

The first trains began running through the full length of Hoosac Tunnel in 1875. (Paul Marino)

The first trains began running through the full length of Hoosac Tunnel in 1875. (Paul Marino)

Tunnel construction continued until 1877, but not before costing the lives of around 200 workers, earning it the nickname "the Bloody Pit." Two of those workers–Ned Brinkman and Billy Nash–are believed to be the source of the hauntings. Both men died by being buried under tons of rock after an explosives "accident" on March 20, 1865. The man who had set off the charge too early, Ringo Kelly, was found strangled to death two miles inside the tunnel ten days later.

Harry and Angeline Holmes lived together on Park Street until at least 1902. Angeline's mother Maria passed away in July 1904. That same year, the Berkshire County Atlas shows the couple were residing at 6 Liberty Street. Dr. Holmes died in June 1933; Angeline passed away in September 1963.

"Pete" McBride (top left insert) played for the Cleveland Spiders in 1898.

McBride Funeral Home began in 1900 in North Adams. It was established by former professional baseball player Peter William "Pete" McBride who died at his business of a heart attack in 1944. Whether or not Pete passed away at the present building is unclear; though local papers say the funeral home relocated there in the 1920s, the Better Business Bureau states that it opened there in 1957. With the passing of Charles Sayles in 1921, it's plausible that the McBride family purchased the property then for their business. Upon the retirement of Anthony McBride, the third generation of owners, the funeral home closed in 2011 and

has been vacant ever since.

While it's not the spookiest history of a building, it's far more than just a disused funeral home. And at least some portions of the structure are more than 140 years old. While John Zaffis understandably wants to focus on his own collection, let's hope he finds a few ways to give a little nod to the lives (and corpses) who graced those rooms over the years.

Ken Summers

Ken Summers is a historical researcher and purveyor of strange tales and forgotten hauntings. An explorer of haunted sites since 1995 and the apologetic creator of the "orb color chart," he has always endeavored to balance eager curiosity with logical questioning in the pursuit of truth. Ken is reluctant to call himself either a skeptic or a believer, yet throughout his life, he has had strange experiences that fall under the category of "unexplained". His last book, *Queer Hauntings*, was published in 2009.
Related Items

2 Comments

1. Joshua

04/06/2015 at 5:01 AM

whoa that's cool

2. Ken Summers

04/06/2015 at 6:58 AM

For those curious about the "H. H. Wellington" on the 1876 map, it was Harvey H. Wellington (born April 2, 1842, in Williamstown). He married Frances "Fanny" Sayles on June 14, 1865. His occupation in the 1884 Berkshire County Directory was listed as a cashier at the First National Bank of Adams, and he was living on Liberty Street at that time. He may very well have been the original owner of 6 Liberty Street.

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XIII. A Visit to the King of Ghosts

A VISIT TO THE KING OF GHOSTS

WHEN any person lay in an unconscious state, it was supposed by the ancient Hawaiians that death had taken possession of the body and opened the door for the spirit to depart. Sometimes if the body lay like one asleep the spirit was supposed to return to its old home. One of the Hawaiian legends weaves their deep-rooted faith in the spirit-world into the expressions of one who seemed to be permitted to visit that ghost-land and its king. This legend belonged to the island of Maui and the region near the village Lahaina. Thus was the story told:

Ka-ilio-hae (the wild dog) had been sick for days and at last sank into a state of unconsciousness. The spirit of life crept out of the body and finally departed from the left eye into a corner of the house, buzzing like an insect. Then he stopped and looked back over the body he had left. it appeared to him like a massive mountain. The eyes were deep caves, into which the ghost looked. Then the spirit became afraid and went outside and rested on the roof of the house. The people began to wail loudly

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and the ghost fled from the noise to a coconut-tree and perched like a bird in the branches. Soon he felt the impulse of the spirit-land moving him away from his old home. So he leaped from tree to tree and flew from place to place wandering toward Kekaa, the place from which the ghosts leave the island of Maui for their home in the permanent spirit-land--the Under-world.

As he came near this doorway to the spirit-world he met the ghost of a sister who had died long before, and to whom was given the power of sometimes turning a ghost back to its body again. She was an aumakua-ho-ola (a spirit making alive). She called to Ka-ilio-hae and told him to come to her house and dwell for a time. But she warned him that when her husband was at home he must not yield to any invitation from him to enter their house, nor could he partake of any of the food which her husband might urge him to eat. The home and the food would be only the shadows of real things, and would destroy his power of becoming alive again.

The sister said, "When my husband comes to eat the food of the spirits and to sleep the. sleep of ghosts, then I will go with you and you shall see all the spirit-land of' our island and see the king of ghosts."

The ghost-sister led Ka-ilio-hae into the place of whirlwinds, a hill where he heard the voices

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of many spirits planning to enjoy all the sports of their former life. He listened with delight and drew near to the multitude of happy spirits. Some were making ready to go down to the sea

for the hee-nalu (surf-riding). Others were already rolling the ulu-maika (the round stone discs for rolling along the ground). Some were engaged in the mokomoko, or umauma (boxing), and the kulakulai (wrestling), and the honuhonu (pulling with hands), and the loulou (pulling with hooked fingers), and other athletic sports.

Some of the spirits were already grouped in the shade of trees, playing the gambling games in which they had delighted when alive. There was the stone konane-board (somewhat like checkers), and the puepue-one (a small sand mound in which was concealed some object), and the puhenehene (the hidden stone under piles of kapa), and the many other trials of skill which permitted betting.

Then in another place crowds were gathered around the hulas (the many forms of dancing). These sports were all in the open air and seemed to be full of interest.

There was a strange quality which fettered every new-born ghost: he could only go in the direction into which he was pushed by the hand of some stronger power. If the guardian of a ghost struck it on one side, it would move off

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in the direction indicated by the blow or the push until spirit strength and experience came and he could go alone. The newcomer desired to join in these games and started to go, but the sister slapped him on the breast and drove him away. These were shadow games into which those who entered could never go back to the substantial things of life.

Then there was a large grass house inside which many ghosts were making merry. The visitor wanted to join this great company, but the sister knew that, if he once was engulfed by this crowd of spirits in this shadow-land, her brother could never escape. The crowds of players would seize him like a whirlwind and he would be unable to know the way he came in or the way out. Ka-ilio-hae tried to slip away from his sister, but he could not turn readily. He was still a very awkward ghost, and his sister slapped him back in the way in which she wanted him to go.

An island which was supposed to float on the ocean as one of the homes of the aumakuas (the ghosts of the ancestors) had the same characteristics. The ghosts (aumakuas) lived on the shadows of all that belonged to the earth-life. It was said that a canoe with a party of young people landed on this island of dreams and for some time enjoyed the food and fruits and sports, but after returning to their homes could not receive the

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nourishment of the food of their former lives, and soon died. The legends taught that no ghost passing out of the body could return unless it made the life of the aumakuas tabu to itself.

Soon the sister led her brother to a great field, stone walled, in which were such fine grass houses as were built only for chiefs of the highest rank. There she pointed to a narrow passage-way into which she told her brother he must enter by himself.

"This," she said, "is the home of Walia, the high chief of the ghosts living in this place. You must go to him. Listen to all he says to you. Say little. Return quickly. There will be three watchmen guarding this passage. The first will ask you, 'What is the fruit [desire] of your heart?' You will answer, 'Walia.' Then he will let you enter the passage.

"Inside the walls. of the narrow way will be the second watchman. He will ask why you come; again answer, 'Walia,' and pass by him.

"At the end of the entrance the third guardian stands holding a raised spear ready to strike. Call to him, 'Ka-make-loa' [The Great Death]. This is the name of his spear. Then he will ask what you want, and you must reply, 'To see the chief,' and he will let you pass.

"Then again when you stand at the door of the great house you will see two heads bending

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together in the way so that you cannot enter or see the king and his queen. If these heads can catch a spirit coming to see the king without knowing the proper incantations, they will throw that ghost into the Po-Milu [The Dark Spirit-world]. Watch therefore and remember all that is told you.

"When you see these heads, point your hands straight before you between them and open your arms, pushing these guards off on each side, then the ala-nui [the great way] will be open for you--and you can enter.

"You will see kahilis [soft long feather fans] moving over the chiefs. The king will awake and call, 'Why does this traveller come?' You will reply quickly, 'He comes to see the Divine One.' When this is said no injury will come to you. Listen and remember and you will be alive again."

Ka-ilio-hae did as he was told with the three watchmen, and each one stepped back, saying, "Noa" (the tabu is lifted), and he pushed by. At the door he shoved the two heads to the side and entered the chief's house to the ka-ikuwai (the middle), falling on his hands and knees. The servants were waving the kahilis this way and that. There was motion, but no noise.

The chief awoke, looked at Ka-ilio-hae, and said: "Aloha, stranger, come near. Who is the high chief of your land?"

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Then Ka-ilio-hae gave the name of his king, and the genealogy from ancient times of the chiefs dead and in the spirit-world.

The queen of ghosts arose, and the kneeling spirit saw one more beautiful than any woman in all the island, and he fell on his face before her.

The king told him to go back and enter his body and tell his people about troubles near at hand.

While he was before the king twice he heard messengers call to the people that the sports were all over; any one not heeding would be thrown into the darkest place of the home of the ghosts when the third call had been sounded.

The sister was troubled, for she knew that at the third call the stone walls around the king's houses would close and her brother would be held fast forever in the spirit-land, so she uttered her incantations and passed the guard. Softly she called. Her brother reluctantly came. She seized him and pushed him outside. Then they heard the third call, and met the multitude of ghosts coming inland from their sports in the sea, and other multitudes hastening homeward from their work and sports on the land.

They met a beautiful young woman who called to them to come to her home, and pointed to a point of rock where many birds were resting. The sister struck her brother and forced him down to the seaside where she had her home

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and her responsibility, for she was one of the guardians of the entrance to the spirit-world.

She knew well what must be done to restore the spirit to the body, so she told her brother they must at once obey the command of the king; but the brother had seen the delights of the life of the aumakuas and wanted to stay. He tried to slip away and hide, but his sister held him fast and compelled him to go along the beach to his old home and his waiting body.

When they came to the place where the body lay she found a hole in the corner of the house and pushed the spirit through. When he saw the body he was very much afraid and tried to escape, but the sister caught him and pushed him inside the foot up to the knee. He did not like the smell of the body and tried to rush back, but she pushed him inside again and held the foot fast and shook him and made him go to the head.

The family heard a little sound in the mouth and saw breath moving the breast, then they knew that he was alive again. They warmed the body and gave a little food. When strength returned he told his family all about his wonderful journey into the land of ghosts.

NOTE.--A student should read next the articles "Homeless and Desolate Ghosts" and "Ancestor Ghost-Gods" in Part II.

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Q: Glenridge Hall is in news with the decision to sell the property and demolish the mansion. What's the story behind the home?

A: One of the articles I came across while researching this answer referenced Glenridge Hall as the home to a pair of TV vampire brothers named Stefan and Damon Salvatore on "The Vampire Diaries."

Fans of the series, who couldn't picture the Salvatores being homeless, voiced their displeasure over the mansion's demise by joining efforts to attempt to rescue the home through a Facebook page called "Save the Salvatore Home," and signing an online petition at Change.org.

That list had more than 15,000 signatures as of early April, but nothing could stop the destruction of Glenridge Hall.

The mansion was torn down last Thursday to make room for Mercedes-Benz's new U.S. headquarters, which is moving from Montvale, N.J., and a mixed-use development by Ashton Woods Homes.

Obviously, there's more to Glenridge Hall's history than what's shown on TV.

Architect Samuel Inman Cooper designed the Tudor-style mansion for an Atlanta businessman named Thomas K. Glenn in the 1920s. Glenn was involved in the leadership of several companies, including Atlantic Steel and a couple of others now called Georgia Power and SunTrust Bank, so he could afford the 15,000-square-foot Sandy Springs landmark.

The home was finished in 1929 and Glenn's estate included 400 acres of farmland, just west of what is now Ga. 400. He turned some of the land into a farm, adding "stables, barns, smith and carpentry shops, and housing for workers," georgiatrust.org states.

Glenn and his second wife Elizabeth – his first wife died — lived there until his death in 1946.

The home, which was owned by the Mayson family, was restored in the 1980s and included antique furnishings and many paintings and portraits. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and hosted many social and charitable gatherings through the years.

Glenridge Hall also was featured in movies and TV shows like "The Vampire Diaries."

And even though it was on the National Register and Georgia Trust placed Glenridge Hall on its 10 "Places in Peril" for 2015, there was nothing to protect the mansion from demolition.

If you're new in town or have questions about this special place we call home, ask us! E-mail Andy Johnston at q&a@ajc.com or call 404-222-2002.

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Adultery 'in the mind' will lead to gay children, says Muslim cleric

06:27 EST, 16 April 2015 dailymail.co.uk

Thinking about another woman while having sex with your partner will make your children gay, declares Iranian cleric

- **Ayatollah Hossein Dehnavi made statement during marriage advice speech**
- **Also claims women not wearing hijab properly could make men gay**
- **Homosexuals face persecution in Iran under strict Islamic regime**

By Elaine O'flynn For Mailonline

An Iranian cleric is teaching his followers that thinking about another woman while having sex with your wife will make your children gay.

Ayatollah Hossein Dehnavi, a celebrity preacher in Iran, made the speech to a packed auditorium of men and women in his home country.

It is the latest controversial teaching put forward by Dehnavi, who also warned that if women did not wear the hijab - the veil covering the hair and chest - properly, they could inadvertently cause some men to become homosexual.

Islamic cleric Dehnavi is a celebrity in his native Iran, giving speeches on relationships and family values

While thinking about another woman while having sex with your wife is not a sin, the Iranian ayatollah preaches, if she becomes pregnant it will mean the child will be gay. Homosexuality is punishable by death in the state

On past occasions He has preached that women must provide sex to their husbands at all times - and said women who are better educated or are financially independent 'harm men's authority'.

'One of the other duties of women in regard to their men is to take care of their men's instinctive needs [sexual drive]', the cleric said in a report by The Clarion Project, an organisation against extremism.

'Do not break their pride and [you must] be more sensitive toward them'

During another speech, the ayatollah explain that it is not a sin for a man to think about another woman while he is having sex with his partner, but if she becomes pregnant as a

result the child will be gay.

Incorrectly wearing the hijab, Dehnavi also warns, could lead to some men becoming homosexual. Hundreds of women attend the lectures and speeches of the Muslim cleric, whose is also regularly shown on state TV

The statements, thought to have been made in 2012 and 2013, came to light after being shared by Gay Star News this week.

Homosexual acts are punishable by death in Iran, with gay and lesbian people forced to hide their sexuality.

A man involved in the 'dominant' role in sodomy faces being flogged up to 100 times if he is unmarried and the sex is consensual, while the man playing the 'passive' can still be put to death regardless of his marriage status, according to a report in The Guardian.

Lesbians faced being whipped 100 times, but sex between two women can also lead to the death penalty if the act is committed four times.

Following his teachings, Dehavni says, will ultimately lead to 'peace on earth'. In another speech he controversially suggested that women should always be sexually available for their husbands

Men become 'saturated' if they have too much sex, Dehavni warns - suggesting becoming intimate once or twice a week is enough. He also says women can make their husbands aroused by showing off their armpits

Dehavni is a celebrated cleric in Iran, whose speeches on family life and marital affairs are shown on state TV and who people queue up for tickets to see him speak live, according to Iran Wire.

The 53-year-old grandfather has himself been married for 30 years

In other speeches he warns Iranian couples not to have too much sex: '.. only once or twice a week, not every day. Otherwise the wan will become saturated.'

He also suggests paler women wear black underwear and show off the most attractive parts of their bodies - their armpits and chest - to entice their husbands.

By perfecting the art of lovemaking, he suggests, couples will have bigger families with strong Muslim values which will ultimately lead to peace on earth.

omid7khat, Qom, Iran, about 10 hours ago

I am from Iran and here these kind of programs are on TV most of the weeks. BUT almost 90 per cent of youngsters do not like or follow these idiots and we always make a lot of jokes about them. Sometimes my family sit in front of TV in order to listen and laugh to these idiots... it is a kind of comedy program and we all laugh till cry LOL

Polly, Llanymynech, about 10 hours ago

Has this Guy got his own Comedy show?

Markinwales, Cardiff, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Haha, idiot.

soiuxsie, east yorks, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Imbecile!

bog off, bog off, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

In my opinion, Ayatollah Hossein Dehnavi is an ill-educated, backward, misogynistic barbarian who needs to grow up and learn about other cultures rather than shovelling his filth into innocent minds.

Gator, Florida, United States, about 10 hours ago

HaHaHaHaHa !!!!!!!! and these are the people our administration is okay with having a nuclear weapon. --- But then Preachers of all nationalities say some stupid stuff so maybe that was not the best comment.

Old Grey Guy, Plymouth, about 10 hours ago

something else to blame the wife for

George, Shanghai, about 10 hours ago

And they wonder they are laughed at?? Idiot

thetruthurts, wigan, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

So? Leave him in his own country.

Lynda25, manchester, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Words fail you sometimes.

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6:30PM BST 23 Apr 2015 telegraph.co.uk

Friday 24 April 2015

Ancient Egyptian cure for a hangover...a garland of laurel leaves

A newly translated Egyptian papyrus advises stringing together the leaves of the Alexandrian Laurel and wearing them like a necklace to cure a 'drunken headache'

Forget the painkillers. Ancient wisdom suggest that donning a garland of laurel leaves is the best way to cure a hangover.

The intriguing remedy came to light after historians translated a 1,900 year old Egyptian papyrus which has lain unread in Oxford University's Sackler Library for more than a hundred years.

Although the papyrus was discovered in Egypt, the text is written in Greek, and advises stringing together the leaves of the Alexandrian Laurel and wearing like a necklace to cure a 'drunken headache.'

It is unknown if the cure worked, but even today villagers in Cambodia inhale the leaves of the Alexandrian Laurel to cure headaches and vertigo, so there may be some truth in its ability to ward off a pounding, spinning head.

The papyrus is part of a stash of more than 500,000 documents found in an ancient rubbish dump in the Egyptian town of Oxyrhynchus in 1896 by Oxford University archaeologists Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt.

The hangover treatment was one of 24 new medical texts that are the latest to be translated.

The Oxyrhynchus papyrus containing the ancient remedy

Among the documents, researchers at the University of Oxford and University College London have found 11 copies of known medical texts by Galen and Hippocrates alongside the new medical texts.

The newly translated medical texts also include recipes for helping to halt the spread of ulcers, others for treating hemorrhoids, toothache, gangrene and a dozen for treating eye conditions.

One recipe describes the need to rub a decapitated ant onto a stye.

Another for treating a discharge of mucus from the eyes called rheum, uses a mixture of copper flakes, antimony oxide, white lead, washed lead dross, starch, dried roses, rain water,

gum Arabic, poppy juice and a plant called Celtic spikenard.

Dr David Leith, a historian and research fellow at the University of Exeter who translated the medical papyrus, said: “The remedies appear to cross what we might see as the boundary between magic and medicine - and although some ancient doctors disliked making use of "magical" remedies, this was far from always the case.”

The recipe for drunken headache - kraipale in Greek - read: 'For drunken headache: wear leaves of Alexandrian chamaedaphne strung together.'

Archaeologists unearth the papyrus in 1896

Dr Leith said: 'The plant name literally means "ground laurel/bay", and its leaves are often compared to bay leaves in ancient botanical literature.'

Dr Margaret Mountford, a papyrologist at the Egypt Exploration Society, which owns the papyrus texts, said: “These texts are hugely important as they give us an insight into daily life at the time.

“Some were copies of ancient Greek medical texts but there were some original medical texts - which look more like magical spells in some ways.

“The hangover cure for example involves handing a laurel around the neck. I have my doubts if this would have worked but perhaps it had more of a placebo effect.”

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Are Militant Atheists Using Chemtrails to Poison the Angels in Heaven?

harddawn.com

Posted on by Stephenson Billings

With the scourges of typhus, malaria and dengue fever raging through communities in the 1940s, the United States government did a curious thing. They loaded up airplanes with the chemical DDT and commenced aerial spraying to wipe out the insects spreading these diseases. At first, the technology behind such dispersals was crude, but over time it became sophisticated and efficient. This public usage of DDT, both in the air and on the streets of our cities, continued into the 1950s. In the 1960s, sky dusting advanced considerably. The chief reason was the widespread use of Agent LNX ("Agent Orange") during the war in Vietnam. Agent Orange was employed as an herbicide and defoliant meant to reduce the agricultural resources of the communist Vietnamese. As we know today, both DDT and Agent Orange had devastating affects on human populations.

For those of us who grew up in farming communities, this technology is not an abstract concept. Crop dusting is a common site in rural America. It's an essential way to spread seed and pesticide. We encounter it often in the planting season. Many other Americans unwittingly witness a very different application of the idea of crop dusting on a nearly daily basis. This is known as "chemtrails."

Chemtrails are the aerial spraying trails left by large aircraft, both commercial and federal, that are not associated with farming. Millions of images of these sky dispersals can be found on the internet. You will see thick plumes of dense whiteness ejected from the backs of jetliners with purposeful squirts. They are not continuous, but rather sporadic when planes reach a particular altitude. When such substances are released, they become hyper-heated in the atmosphere to attain a canopy-like distribution above targeted regions. Leaked images of these chemical containers in the bodies of large-sized aircraft regularly surface on the internet, underscoring the veracity of these claims.

The American public has never quite grasped the purpose of all this spraying. Officials in the Obama administration have long refused to even talk about these efforts, though some have suggested that super spy Edward Snowden may leak details of this widespread project if forced against the wall by the international community. As we have seen with other government programs, the ultimate result here is not likely to be a beneficial one.

In various online communities there has been vigorous debate about what chemtrails actually mean. Some believe they spread barium as a highly-sensitive electromagnetic missile defense system. Others postulate they contain compounds that attack our blood cells and ultimately reduce populations, much like the fluoridation of our water supplies. The rise in disease and other unexplained medical phenomena does strangely coincide with the popularization of chemtrails.

Yet another theory that has been gaining traction and deserves serious consideration is that America's massive science-industrial complex is attempting a most dangerous experiment.

Barrels of unknown chemicals are stored in the body of a "chemtrails" plane.

Since Lyndon Johnson's presidency, we have seen a grave movement towards science-based strategic thinking in all forms of national policy. Whole swathes of government have been taken over by academic PhDs with an intense obsession with scientism. From the National Science Board to the Department of Education, from NASA to the National Institute of Standards, a powerful cadre of elite intellectuals is seizing control. A common thread amongst these activist bureaucrats is a love of science over God.

Links to Radical Atheist Movement

President George W. Bush famously fought against the scientists entrenched in his administration. At many points they promoted evolution "theory" and "global warming" over good old-fashioned common sense. They tried to uproot Christianity in our schools through activist judges. And while President Bush fought the good fight, he ultimately did not win the battle. The long line of anti-theists ruling the inner halls of power since Lyndon Johnson remained in control.

So what is at the heart of this secret society of globalist atheism? One of their most significant concerns is the power of Faith. They despise the Glory of Jesus and the hope that He brings to countless Americans. The atheists are so insanely dedicated to their obscene cult they will try just about anything to destroy every remnant of Christian Love on this earth. As this sickening obsession was wed to advances in aerial spraying technology in the last century, one can surmise the evil compound that resulted. In this formula, it seems quite logical that the atheist's next step would be to attempt the widespread murder of Jesus's very Heavenly Agents of Love.

Angels. They are much more than a Christian bedtime story. They are much more than the sweet flutterings in the ears of believers. Angels are quite literally the factory workers of faith. They are tireless and everywhere. They accomplish innumerable feats, from minor pangs of guilt to the throbbing passions of love. The angels are there to guide us, to inspire us and, ultimately, to remind us of our obligation to Jesus. The fly through the air at His beckoning. They are gentle and ever willing. We would be far less human and humane were it not for the angels. And that is exactly why atheists fear the power of angels.

Atheists shake with contempt at the thought of love and decency. Their whole lives are dedicated to nothingness, to the gaping void of pain that nihilism defines. Indeed, atheists love pain. They love pain in their sexual rituals, in their drug addictions and in their secret globalist power schemes. Why do we have war? It's the atheists who spread contempt of God and invite such reckless notions of communism and Islam.

Will Atheistic Science Annihilate Love and Prayer?

As secret atheist scientists in government pursue their goals of undermining Jesus in

The top secret "EROS" government facility, where data of the efficacy of chemtrails is gathered by atheist scientists.

America, it only stands to reason that they would take their battle to the skies. The aerial dogfight is likely a vicious one. Who knows what advances they have made since the days of DDT and Agent Orange. Yet fight on they do, every single day! Our heavens are coated in a thick aerosol haze of spiritual hate and this nation's faith is sinking.

In our lifetime, the United States has been bombarded by supposedly "natural" disasters and terrorist attacks. Religion is at an all time low, while sodomy and perversion are at epic heights. Clearly the overlap of these symptoms with the widespread usage of chemtrails is more than just a coincidence. Clearly the astonishing rise of militant atheism in America must factor in. So what is the ultimate answer to the mystery of the chemtrails? Have Heaven's angels forsaken us for such an offensive maneuver? Or are they actually losing, dying off in plumes of jetliner butchery? Surely America's atheists in the great halls of government are asking these very same questions.

Dr. Stephenson Billings is an award-winning Investigative Journalist, Motivational Children's Party Entertainer and Antique Soda Bottle Collector all in one special, blessed package!

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Artifacts lost in shipwreck 191 years ago returned to Hawaii

yahoo.com

By LISA ANN CAPOZZI 18 hours ago

Museum to show artifacts from 1824 Hawaiian 'royal wreck'

Museum to show artifacts from 1824 Hawaiian 'royal wreck'

- The old yacht belonged to the second king of Hawaii

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — A museum in Hawaii is preparing to open a treasure-trove of artifacts from the shipwreck of a royal yacht sunk off the coast of Kauai 191 years ago.

Richard Rogers, a Hawaii shipwreck chaser, worked with scientists from the Smithsonian Institution to dredge up the findings from the ship owned by King Kamehameha II, aka Liholiho, the second king of Hawaii.

"We found gold, silver, Hawaiian poi pounders, gemstones, a boat whistle, knives, forks, mica, things from all over the world, high- and low-end European stuff. Every bit of it is royal treasure," Rogers said.

Rogers volunteered his time aboard his research vessel, the Pilialoha, over a five year period in four-week intervals from 1995 to 2001 to pull up the treasures.

"It's all pickled and nice and ready to be displayed," Rogers said. "There are over a thousand artifacts. We did our homework and this find is invaluable because it all belonged to the king. It is a fabulous window into the 1820s."

Rogers said the king's belongings were buried in 10 feet of water and 10 feet of sand. His favorite discovery was a trumpet shell.

"I found it under a bunch of sand and carried it onto the deck. This was in 1999. I blew it and it made the most beautiful sound going out over Hanalei Bay," Rogers recalled. "I thought about how it hadn't been blown in over 170 years."

Kamehameha II purchased the yacht from George Crowninshield II, who named it "Cleopatra's Barge" in 1816. According to historian and Kauai Museum volunteer Zenon Wong, it cost $50,000

to build the 192 ton yacht. Rogers said it was the first luxury ocean-going yacht built in the United States.

Wong said reports were conflicting about the condition of the crew of the 83-foot long ship, which had been renamed Ha?aheo o Hawai?i ("Pride of Hawaii"). Some documents indicate everyone on board was drunk April 6, 1824, when the ship went aground on a shallow reef. Other historical accounts report everyone was intoxicated except the captain. The cause of the wreck is unfounded but speculation shows it may have been the combination of an unexpected wind gale and a snapped anchor cable. There are no reports that anyone died aboard the ship, which was crewed entirely by Hawaiians.

The principal value of the artifacts is historical, said Paul F. Johnston, Ph.D., Curator of Maritime History at the National Museum of American History Smithsonian Institution. They represent the only known objects from the short but intense reign of Kamehameha II, the man who abolished the Hawaiian kapu (taboo) socio-cultural system and allowed Christian missionaries into the kingdom.

"He only reigned from 1819 -1824, but Old Hawaii changed forever and irrevocably from the changes he put into place during that short period. He was an important member of our nation's only authentic royalty," Johnston said.

The State of Hawaii owns the artifacts and loaned them to the Smithsonian for conservation and study. The findings were in the custody of the Smithsonian from the time of their recovery, with the exception of some artifacts going to the Underwater Conservation Lab at Texas A&M University. Those objects were returned to the Smithsonian after cataloging, conservation and stabilization. Several years ago a sampling of the artifacts were displayed at the Smithsonian.

Four crates of recovered artifacts weighing nearly 1,200 pounds were delivered to The Kauai Museum in March. Two to three additional crates are scheduled for delivery and will complete the collection.

Kauai Museum Director Jane Gray said she expects to open the crates soon and unveil the contents to the public after everything has been carefully unpacked.

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AUMAKUAS, OR ANCESTOR-GHOSTS

There are two meanings to the first part of this word, for "au" means a multitude, as in "auwaa" (many canoes), but it may mean time and place, as in the following: "Our ancestors thought that if there was a desolate place where no man could be found, it was the aumakua (place of many gods)." "Makua" was the name given to the ancestors of a chief and of the people as well as to parents.

The aumakuas were the ghosts who did not go down into Po, the land of King Milu. They were in the land of the living, hovering around the families from which they had been separated by death. They were the guardians of these families.

When any one died, many devices were employed in disposing of the body. The fact that an enemy of the family might endeavor to secure the bones of the dead for the purpose of making them into fish-hooks, arrow-heads, or spearheads led the surviving members of a family either to destroy or to conceal the body of the dead. For if the bones were so used it meant great dishonor, and the spirit was supposed to suffer on account of this indignity.

Sometimes the flesh was stripped from the bones and cast into the ocean or into the fires of the volcanoes. that the ghost might be made a part of the family ghosts who lived in such places, and the bones were buried in some secret cave or pit, or folded together in a bundle, and these were called unihipili. The unihipili bones were used in connection with a strange belief called pule-ana-ana (praying to death).

When the body of a dead person was to be hidden, only two or three men were employed in the task. Sometimes the one highest in rank would slay his helpers so that no one except himself would know the burial-place.

The tools, the clothing, and the calabashes of the dead were unclean until certain ceremonies of purification had been faithfully performed. Many times these possessions were either placed in the burial-cave beside the body or burned so that they might be the property of the spirit in ghost-land.

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The people who cared for the body had to bathe in salt water and separate themselves from the family for a time. They must sprinkle the house and all things inside with salt water. After a few days the family would return and occupy the house once more.

Usually the caretakers of a dead body would make a hole in the side of the house and push it through rather than take it through the old doorway, probably having the idea that the ghost would only know the door through which the body had gone out when alive and so could not find the new way back when the opening was closed.

After death came, the ghost crept out of the body, coming up from the feet until it rested in the

eyes, and then it came out from the corner of one eye, and had a kind of wind body. It could pass around the room and out of doors through any opening it could find. It could perch like a bird on the roof of a house or in the branches of trees, or it could seat itself on logs or stones near the house. It might have to go back into the body and make it live again. Possibly the ghost might meet some old ancestor-ghosts and be led so far away that it could not return; then it must become a member of the aumakua, or ancestor-ghost, family, or wander off to join the homeless desolate ghost vagabonds.

Sometimes dead bodies were thrown into the sea with the hope that the ghost body would become a shark or an eel, or perhaps a. mo-o, or dragon-god, to be worshipped with other ancestor-gods of the same class.

Sometimes the body or the bones would be cast into the crater of Kilauea, the people thinking the spirit would become a flame of fire like Pele, the goddess of volcanoes; other spirits went into the air concealed in the dark depths of the sky, perhaps in the clouds.

Here they carried on the work needed to help their families. They would become fog or mist or the fine misty rain colored by light. With these the Rainbow Maiden, Anuenue, delighted to dwell. They often lived in the great rolling white clouds, or in the gray clouds which let fall the quiet rain needed for farming. They also lived in the fierce black thunder-clouds which sent down floods of a devastating character upon the enemies of the family to which they belonged.

There were ghost ancestors who made their homes near the places where the members of their families toiled; there were ancestor-ghosts to take care of the tapa, or kapa, makers, or

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the calabash or house or canoe makers. There were special ancestor-ghosts called upon by name by the farmers, the fishermen, and the bird-hunters. These ghosts had their own kuleanas, or places to which they belonged, and in which they had their own peculiar duties and privileges. They became ancestor ghost-gods and dwelt on the islands near the homes of their worshippers, or in the air above, or in the trees around the houses, or in the ocean or in the glowing fires of volcanoes. They even dwelt in human beings, making them shake or sneeze as with cold, and then a person was said to become an ipu, or calabash containing a ghost.

Sometimes it was thought that a ghost-god could be seen sitting on the head or shoulder of the person to whom it belonged. Even in this twentieth century a native woman told the writer that she saw a ghost-god whispering in his ear while he was making an address. She said, "That ghost was like a fire or a colored light." Many times the Hawaiians have testified that they believed in the presence of their ancestor ghost-gods.

This is the way the presence of a ghost was detected: Some sound would be heard, such as a sibilant noise, a soft whistle, or something like murmurs, or some sensation in a part of the body might be felt. If an eyelid trembled, a ghost was sitting on that spot. A quivering or creepy feeling in any part of the body meant that a ghost was touching that place. If any of

these things happened, a person would cry out, "I have seen or felt a spirit of the gods."

Sometimes people thought they saw the spirits of their ghost friends. They believed that the spirits of these friends appeared in the night, sometimes to kill any one who was in the way. The high chiefs and warriors are supposed to march and go in crowds, carrying their spears and piercing those they met unless some ghost recognized that one and called to the others, "Alia [wait]," but if the word was "O-i-o [throw the spear]!" then that spirit's spear would strike death to the passer-by.

There were night noises which the natives attributed to sounds or rustling motions made by such night gods as the following:

Akua-hokio (whistling gods).

Akua-kiei (peeping gods).

Akua-nalo (prying gods).

Akua-loa (long gods).

Akua-poko (short gods)

Akua-muki (sibilant gods).

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A prayer to these read thus:

"O Akua-loa! [long god]
O Akua-poko! [short god]
O Akua-muki! [god breathing in short, sibilant breaths]
O Akua-hokio! [god blowing like whistling winds]
O Akua-kiei! [god watching, peeping at one]
O Akua-nalo! [god hiding, slipping out of sight]
O All ye Gods, who travel on the dark night paths!
Come and eat.
Give life to me,
And my parents,
And my children,
To us who are living in this place. Amama [Amen]."

This prayer was offered every night as a protection against the ghosts.

The aumakuas were very laka (tame and helpful). It was said that an aumakua living in a shark would be very laka, and would come to be rubbed on the head, opening his mouth for a sacrifice. Perhaps some awa, or meat, would be placed in his mouth, and then he would go away. So also if the aumakua were a bird, it would become tame. If it were the alae (a small duck), it would come to the hand of its worshipper; if the pueo (owl), it would come and

scratch the earth away from the grave of one of its worshippers, throwing the sand away with its wings, and would bring the body back to life. An owl ancestor-god would come and set a worshipper free were he a prisoner with hands and feet bound by ropes.

It made no difference whether the dead person were male or female, child or aged one, the spirit could become a ghost-god and watch over the family.

There were altars for the ancestor-gods in almost every land. These were frequently only little piles of white coral, but sometimes chiefs would build a small house for their ancestor-gods, thus making homes that the ghosts might have a kuleana, or place of their own, where offerings could be placed, and prayers offered, and rest enjoyed.

The Hawaiians have this to say about sacrifices for the aumakuas: If a mo-o, or dragon-god, was angry with its caretaker or his family and they became weak and sick, they would sacrifice a spotted dog with awa, red fish, red sugar-cane, and some of the grass growing in taro patches wrapped in yellow kapa. This they would take to the lua, or hole, where the mo-o dwelt, and fasten the bundle there. Then the mo-o would become pleasant and take away the

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sickness. If it were a shark-god, the sacrifice was a black pig, a dark red chicken, and some awa wrapped in new white kapa made by a virgin. This bundle would be carried to the beach, where a prayer would be offered:

"O aumakuas from sunrise to sunset,
From North to South, from above and below,
O spirits of the precipice and spirits of the sea,
All who dwell in flowing waters,
Here is a sacrifice-our gifts are to you.
Bring life to us, to all the family,
To the old people with wrinkled skin,
To the young also.
This is our life,
From the gods."

Then the farmer would throw the bundle into the sea, bury the chicken alive, take the pig to the temple, then go back to his house looking for rain. If there was rain, it showed that the aumakua had seen the gifts and washed away the wrong. If the clouds became black with heavy rain, that was well.

The offerings for Pele and Hiiaka were awa to drink and food to eat, in fact all things which could be taken to the crater.

This applies to the four great gods, Kane, Ku, Lono, and Kanaloa. They are called the first of the ancestors. Each one of these was supposed to be able to appear in a number of different forms, therefore each had a number of names expressive of the work he intended or was desired to do. An explanatory adjective or phrase was added to the god's own name, defining

certain acts or characteristics, thus: Kane-puaa (Kane, the pig) was Kane who would aid in stirring up the ground like a pig.

This is one of the prayers used when presenting offerings to aumakuas, "O Aumakuas of the rising of the sun, guarded by every tabu staff, here are offerings and sacrifices--the black pig, the white chicken, the black cocoanut, the red fish-sacrifices for the gods and all the aumakuas; those of the ancestors, those of the night, and of the dawn, here am I. Let life come."

The ancestor-gods were supposed to use whatever object they lived with. If ghosts went up into the clouds, they moved the clouds from place to place and made them assume such shapes as might be fancied. Thus they would reveal themselves over their old homes.

All the aumakuas were supposed to be gentle and ready to help their own families. The old Hawaiians say that the

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power of the ancestor-gods was very great. " Here is the magic power. Suppose a man would call his shark, 'O Kuhai-moana [the shark-god]! O, the One who lives in the Ocean! Take me to the land!' Then perhaps a shark would appear, and the man would get on the back of the shark, hold fast to the fin, and say: 'You look ahead. Go on very swiftly without waiting.' Then the shark would swim swiftly to the shore."

The old Hawaiians had the sport called "lua." This sometimes meant wrestling, but usually was the game of catching a man, lifting him up, and breaking his body so that he was killed. A wrestler of the Ina class would go out to a plain where no people were dwelling and call his god Kuialua. The aumakua ghost-god would give this man strength and skill, and help him to kill his adversaries.

There were many priests of different classes who prayed to the ancestor-gods. Those of the farmers prayed like this:

"O great black cloud in the far-off sky,
O shadow watching shadow,
Watch over our land.
Overshadow our land
From corner to corner
From side to side.
Do not cast your shadow on other lands
Nor let the waters fall on the other lands
[*i.e.*, keep the rains over my place]."

Also they prayed to Kane-puaa (Kane, the pig), the great aumakua of farmers:

"O Kane-puaa, root!
Dig inland, dig toward the sea;

Dig from corner to corner,
From side to side;
Let the food grow in the middle,
Potatoes on the side roots,
Fruit in the centre.
Do not root in another place!
The people may strike
You with the spade [o-o]
Or hit you with a stone,
And hurt you. Amama [Amen]."

So also they prayed to Kukea-olo-walu (a taro aumakua god):

O Kukea-olo-walu! Make the taro grow.
Let the leaf spread like a banana.
Taro for us, O Kukea!
The banana and the taro for us.
Pull up the taro for us, O Kukea!
Pound the taro. {p. 255}
Make the fire for cooking the pig.
Give life to us--
To the farmers--
From sunrise to sunset
From one fastened place to the other fastened place
[*i.e.*, one side of the sky to the other fastened on each side of the earth]. Amama [Amen]."

Trees with their branches and fruit were frequently endowed with spirit power. All the different kinds of birds and even insects, and also the clouds and winds and the fish in the seas were given a place among the spirits around the Hawaiians.

The people believed in life and its many forms of power. They would pray to the unseen forces for life for themselves and their friends, and for death to come on the families of their enemies. They had special priests and incantations for the pule-ana-ana, or praying to death, and even to the present time the supposed power to pray to death is one of the most formidable terrors to their imagination.

Menehunes, eepas, and kupuas were classes of fairies or gnomes which did not belong to the ancestor-gods, or aumakuas.

The menehunes were fairy servants. Some of the Polynesian Islands called the lowest class of servants "manahune." The Hawaiians separated them almost entirely from the spirits of ancestors. They worked at night performing prodigious tasks which they were never supposed to touch again after the coming of dawn.

The eepas were usually deformed and defective gnomes. They suffered from all kinds of weakness, sometimes having no bones and no more power to stand than a large leaf. They were sometimes set apart as spirit caretakers of little children. Nuuanu Valley was the home

of a multitude of eepas who had their temple on the western side of the valley.

Kupuas were the demons of ghost-land. They were very powerful and very destructive. No human being could withstand their attacks unless specially endowed with power from the gods. They had animal as well as human bodies and could use whichever body seemed to be most available. The dragons, or mo-os, were the most terrible kupuas in the islands.

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Balkans: Czech man claims to establish 'new state'

- 16 April 2015

Mr Jedlicka (left) says Liberland's finer details, including a constitution, will be sorted out in the near future

A Czech man claims to have established a new state on the west bank of the Danube, it's reported.

Vit Jedlicka, a member of the Eurosceptic, conservative Party of Free Citizens, has declared that a 7-sq-km (2.7-sq-mile) patch between Serbia and Croatia is now the sovereign state of Liberland. Mr Jedlicka, Liberland's self-proclaimed "president", says it sits on an area of no-man's land - or terra nullius - between the two countries which isn't claimed by either of them.

He has been doing the rounds in the Czech media, telling the Parlamentni Listy website that he's received support from "across the entire political spectrum" in his home country. So far almost none of the coverage has questioned whether Liberland is actually just a publicity stunt, although the Czech TN news website notes: "It's not entirely clear to what extent the activists are being serious, but they have turned up at the location of their 'state', where they have raised the flag."

As well as the flag, Liberland has a motto - "To live and let live" - and a website inviting people to apply for citizenship. Its founders say they want a country without "unnecessary restrictions and taxes", but make clear that communists, Nazis and other extremists need not apply. Mr Jedlicka says he has received hundreds of applications from people wanting citizenship, although currently the population stands at seven.

Liberland has been declared on a tiny spot of land between Croatia and Serbia

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Ouijacon celebrates 125 years of Ouija, brings it home to Baltimore

2015-04-23 baltimoresun.com

A March 1892 Ouija ad in the New England Homestead in Springfield, Mass.

By Chris Kaltenbach

Ouija board to celebrate its 125{+t}{+h} birthday right where it started, in Baltimore

Ouija enthusiasts to converge on Baltimore this weekend

Baltimore to host Ouijacon, a celebration of all things Ouija

Baltimore, home to "The Star-Spangled Banner," Babe Ruth, John Waters and (in spite of what Boston and Richmond may claim) Edgar Allan Poe.

And also the Ouija board, that mysterious oracle whose Charm City origins are being celebrated at this weekend's Ouijacon. This first-ever gathering of talking-board enthusiasts is determined to do for Baltimore what Monopoly has done for Atlantic City.

Already, there's an elaborate gravestone in Green Mount Cemetery, marking the final resting place of Elijah Bond, who patented the Ouija board in 1891. As part of Ouijacon, city officials will be unveiling a plaque, to be placed on the North Charles Street building where the Ouija board got its name. And while coming up with a game plan to rival Atlantic City's, which revels in its history as home to all the streets that were later incorporated onto the Monopoly board, Ouija aficionados have big ideas.

Origins of Ouija board are in Baltimore

For 76 proud years, Baltimore reigned as the Ouija board capital.

"Baltimore really has this unique piece of history," says Robert Murch, board chairman of the Talking Board Historical Society. "I'd like to see some kind of sign or recognition on every building, on all 13 factory sites, where Ouija boards were made. I'd like to see an original Ouija walk in Baltimore."

Bill Gilmore, executive director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, applauded the idea of a Ouija Baltimore walking tour, especially one that might be coupled with a Ouija session before or after. "I think people are really looking for experiential activities," he said. "Experiential tourism is a big draw, people really get into it."

IRelated

Retro Baltimore: Remembering Baltimore's days as the Ouija capital of the world

8

Speaking from his home in Boston, Murch says he's been interested in Ouija boards since he was a kid, when he saw his stepsisters playing with one. But he credits his grandmother with really planting the seeds of his obsession. It was she who, going against his mom's wishes, took young Walter to see the 1986

movie "Witchboard," starring Tawny Kitaen as a young women threatened by an evil spirit who first contacts her through a Ouija board.

"That movie really captured my imagination," says Murch, 41. "That's when my obsession with, or possession by, a Ouija board started."

And Murch is far from alone. "This thing is Americana," says Jeff Belanger, a Massachusetts-based author on the paranormal who is scheduled to host a panel on "Beyond Ouija: Spirit communication from talking boards to modern-day ghost investigations" at 1 p.m. today. "Its history goes back a long ways, 125 years. When I was a kid, I played around with one of those things. The Ouija board played a large part in pointing me toward what I do today."

Any obsession (or possession, which sounds so deliciously diabolical) with the Ouija board leads inevitably to Baltimore. It was here, on April 25, 1890, that the board itself, asked by local medium Helen Peters what it should be called, spelled out the name "O-U-I-J-A." (There's no truth to the story, Murch insists, that "Ouija" was formed by combining the French and German words for "Yes.")

It was also in Baltimore that, a year later, Bond received the patent (after, so the story goes, an official at the D.C. Patent Office asked the board questions that it correctly answered). And it was here, until the 1960s, that the official Ouija board was manufactured, under the auspices of entrepreneur William Fuld and his descendants.

All of this means that, for 125 years now, this Baltimore-born mysterious oracle has been delighting, baffling and sometimes even haunting the public. A Ouija board (and the design has changed little since 1890) contains the 26 letters of the alphabet, the numbers 0 through 9, the words "Yes" and "No" and the phrase "Good Bye." Players place their fingers atop a sliding triangular device known as a "planchette" and ask the board questions; the planchette then moves about the board, spelling out its answer.

(Elijah Bond's gravestone at Green Mount Cemetery has the Ouija board design carved onto it – perhaps one reason it's among the most popular markers there.)

"Baltimore is a city of eccentrics," says Rie Sadler, a paranormal investigator living in Catonsville who plans to check out Ouijacon, provided her University of Baltimore law school schedule has room. "Laying claim to being the city that first started the Ouija board just kind of fits along with the charm of the city. From a historical perspective, how cool is it to have connections with Edgar Allan Poe and something like the Ouija board? It just adds to our weird little history."

Adds BOPA's Gilmore, always happy to see the city shone in a good light, "I have not consulted the Ouija Board since I was about 12, and at that time it was always right. Think dark room and candles.With the anniversary coming up, maybe I should give it another try."

There were talking boards before Ouija, all of them arising from the 19th-century determination to speak with the dead. "There have been thousands," says Murch. "There have been talking boards, general spirit boards, swami boards, witch boards, magic answer boards. … But Ouija is by far the most popular talking board ever created."

How does it do it? Are spirits really at work? Or is the planchette manipulated by involuntary muscle movements, known to scientists as the ideometer effect?

Who knows for sure? Murch readily admits he doesn't – and says that uncertainty forms the basis for Ouija's continuing popularity. Not too many boards, talking or otherwise, have maintained their popularity for more than a century.

"What made Ouija unique is that they did not tell you how or why it worked — that was the mystery," says Murch. "When many other talking boards would claim, 'This talks to a spirit,' 'This talks to an agent,' 'This

talks to our subconscious,' that would box it in. One of the early successes of Ouija was, 'We don't claim to know how or why it works. But we will claim that, if you spend enough time, you'll have a good time with it.'"

Even in this modern age of skeptics, the allure of Ouija remains strong. "For $19.95, you get an unlimited calling plan to the other side," Murch says. "No overages, no roaming. It's a great calling plan."

So, whether you believe the Ouija board gets its power from the other side or from muscle twitches one cannot control, whether you believe Ouija really communicates with the dead or merely spells out what players want it to spell out, Murch promises Ouijacon will show you a good time.

The schedule includes workshops and discussions led by spiritualists, game enthusiasts and others. Topics include "Ghosts in the Machines: a History of Spirit Communication Devices up to talking boards" (9 a.m. today) and "Practical Ouija: getting the most mileage out of your planchette" (10 a.m. Saturday).

There will also be a room of vendors, and an exhibit of vintage Ouija and other talking boards There's even a seance scheduled for 9 tonight , in which psychic Chip Coffey will attempt to communicate with "what" named Ouija during that spiritualist session 125 years ago.

"Someday, we're all going to die, we're all going to be on the other side of that board," Murch notes, making one last pitch to the skeptical. "So when you sit down to play, whether you say you believe it or not, you are entertaining the fact that, some day, someone might be trying to talk to you."

Ouijacon is set to begin at 9 a.m. today and 10 a.m. Saturday at the Baltimore Harbor Hotel, 101 W. Fayette St. Tickets are $79 daily. $125 all-access. Information: tbhs.org

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No place like GNOME: Giant figure magically appears in people's gardens

express.co.uk

A GIANT gnome is stumping residents in a small town by magically appearing in their gardens.

By Helen Barnett
PUBLISHED: 20:49, Thu, Apr 23, 2015 | UPDATED: 21:57, Thu, Apr 23, 2015

SWNS

Neighbours in Alnwick, Northumberland, are baffled by the imposing 12ft statue who has so far moved into at least 12 gardens.

Residents have woken up to the bizarre smiling feature peeking over rockeries, standing on their lawns or even lurking in back yards.

The character, made of wood, chicken wire and expanding foam, has become the talk of the town with residents who find the trespasser boasting they have been "gnomed".

The whopper, which they lovingly named Dumpty, has even grown in size, starting at a measly nine foot tall before being given a plinth.

SWNS

I was kind of worried they were going to have me carted off by the men in white coats

It is still a mystery who is helping Dumpty continue his travels, with the only evidence being a mobile phone picture of it being transported in the back of a van.

The gnome shocked Judith Francis when she opened her curtains to see Dumpty taking up the whole of her front garden.

She said: "I came out the house the other day to find this visiting gnome. I don't know where he came from.

"I didn't know what to think to be honest, I wondered how long he was going to stay for and

hoped it was just for the weekend so it wouldn't upset the neighbours.

SWNS

SWNS

"I was kind of worried they were going to have me carted off by the men in white coats."

On Facebook, several other residents have commented on the baffling sightings, with Sarah Morgan writing 'never a dull moment on Bridge Street'.

Tom Stafford, whose lawn Dumpty appeared on in Fairfields, said the gnome 'disappeared as magically as it appeared'.

The prank appears to be inspired by cult French movie Amelie which sees kindhearted Amelie cheer up her father by stealing his gnome and sending photographs of him by different locations around the world.

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'Big Bird' Almost Went Up in Challenger Shuttle

'It made my scalp crawl to think I was supposed to be on that'

By Evann Gastaldo, Newser Staff
Posted May 6, 2015 10:44 AM CDT

(Newser) – Big Bird was almost a passenger on the doomed Challenger space shuttle in 1986. Caroll Spinney, who has played the *Sesame Street* character for 46 years, has a new documentary—*I Am Big Bird*—and he discussed the dark tidbit while discussing the film with *Today*. NASA thought that if Big Bird went into space, more kids would be interested in the space program, and though Spinney was worried about the idea, he agreed to go up in the Challenger. Ultimately, though, NASA decided Spinney "would not fit in the spacecraft" while wearing the bulky costume.

"It made my scalp crawl to think I was supposed to be on that" while watching the launch and subsequent explosion, Spinney says. He also wrote about the Challenger incident in the *Guardian* late last month, prompting NASA to confirm the story's accuracy Monday, NBC News reports. "In 1984, NASA created the Space Flight Participant Program to select teachers, journalists, artists, and other people who could bring their unique perspective to the human spaceflight experience as a passenger on the space shuttle. A review of past documentation shows there were initial conversations with *Sesame Street* regarding their potential participation on a Challenger flight, but that plan was never approved," the statement reads. Spinney says he was replaced on the flight with teacher Christa McAuliffe.

In this April 10, 2008, file photo, Big Bird, voiced by Carroll Spinney, reads to kids during a taping of Sesame Street in New York.

Just_a_Voice
May 6, 2015 3:16 PM CDT
Even if it would have been successful, I can't think of a bigger waste of fuel than to send an

oversized muppet into space.

FarmerM

May 6, 2015 3:10 PM CDT

I suppose the age of the person watching made a difference on the Challenger. I grew up with a Test Pilot uncle. I knew a lot of folks that "died at the office." And look at early flight--half the pioneers planted themselves. The space program seems safer than auto travel on a miles travelled basis.

Ezekiel 25:17

May 6, 2015 1:56 PM CDT

On, "In Living Color" he died of the avian flu.

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Bizarre fake police force included Kamala Harris aide, prosecutors say

2015-05-06 latimes.com

Harris aide, two others accused of running rogue police force

By Joseph Serna, Javier Panzar and Matt Hamilton

Aide to California Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris and two others accused of operating a rogue police force

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Capt. Roosevelt Johnson thought it was odd when three people — two of them dressed in police uniforms he didn't recognize — strolled into the Santa Clarita station in February.

One man introduced himself as chief of the Masonic Fraternal Police Department and told Johnson this was a courtesy call to let him know the agency was setting up shop in the area.

They met for 45 minutes, Johnson said, but he was left confused and suspicious — so much so that he immediately ordered deputies to pull station surveillance video so they would have images of the visitors. He also assigned detectives to check them out.

Fact or fiction? Rogue police force claims ties to ancient Knights Templar

“It was an odd meeting,” the captain recalled. “It just raised my suspicion level.”

This week, the three people were charged with impersonating police officers. They are David Henry, who told Johnson he was the police chief, Tonette Hayes and Brandon Kiel, an aide to state Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris.

It turns out Henry, Hayes and Kiel had allegedly introduced themselves to police agencies across the state, though it is unclear why. A website claiming to represent their force cites connections to the Knights Templars that they say go back 3,000 years. The site also said that the department had jurisdiction in 33 states and Mexico.

“When asked what is the difference between the Masonic Fraternal Police Department and other police departments, the answer is simple for us. We were here first!” the website said.

Los Angeles County prosecutors said the whole effort was a ruse, though for what purpose remains unclear. The investigation is continuing.

Johnson said Kiel did most of the talking during their meeting. Kiel said in addition to his police position, he worked for Harris. When Kiel departed, Johnson said, he left his card from the state Department of Justice.

David Beltran, a spokesman for the state Department of Justice, said Kiel was placed on paid leave April 30 — the date he was arrested. He is paid $67,416 annually as deputy director of community affairs.

Harris has received regular briefings on the case since it began.

“The attorney general has been concerned about these serious allegations from the point she was first briefed on this investigation,” Beltran said. “Our office has been cooperating with investigators from the beginning and will continue to do so.”

Friends of Kiel rushed to his defense.

“I was in total disbelief. I still don't believe it,” Los Angeles businesswoman Ingrid Fields said. “This is not the Brandon that I or dozens of people know.”

Fields said she has known Kiel since he was a 6-year-old neighbor and was friends with Fields' daughter.

“He is smart, articulate and very, very ethical, which is why I find this hard to believe. He is a hard worker,” she said. “He is a brilliant guy who had a great political career ahead of him. I can't imagine him doing anything to jeopardize that.”

While Fields said she didn't know about the police connection, those who knew Henry said the 46-year-old was very open about his role.

Employees at the Backwoods Inn restaurant in Santa Clarita remember a day about a month ago when Henry — a regular customer — walked in with a swagger.

He wore a dark blue police uniform with badges and insignia on both arms. He told the staff at the country western-themed eatery off the Sierra Highway he was a police chief and handed out his business card with pride.

It read MASONIC FRATERNAL POLICE DEPARTMENT in capital letters and identified Henry as Chief Henry 33

“He was very big on saying ‘I'm the chief, I'm the chief,'” said one server who talked to him when he stopped by two or three times a week. She spoke on the condition that her name not be used.

“He carried himself like a cop, his uniform was spot on to a regular cop uniform, we all

thought he was a legit cop," said a chef at the restaurant. Henry regularly brought in his children.

Employees said Henry told them the department had set up offices in a strip mall next to a storefront church in Santa Clarita.

Church members said they didn't talk to their neighbors but said they saw a few men come and go dressed in sharp suits. They drove a black Lincoln town car with no license plates.

"We thought they were a security company," said one church member.

Henry was charged with multiple misdemeanors and three counts of felony perjury. He is scheduled to be arraigned May 21.

Kiel is charged with six counts of impersonating an officer and unlawful use of a state ID. Hayes was charged with four counts of impersonating an officer. Both have been bailed out of jail and no court date has been set.

The three were members of a religious philanthropy group that does work in South Los Angeles. Their work put them in contact with various politicians and community leaders. A spokesman for Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) confirmed that the group gave her an award in 2012. A photo shows Waters with Kiel and Henry.

The exact structure of the purported police department was unclear. But on the website, Henry is referred to as "Absolute Supreme Sovereign Grandmaster."

Times staff writers Michael Finnegan and Patrick McGreevy contributed to this report.

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UPDATE

4:45 p.m.: This post has been udated with additional details on charges, interviews and background.

12:22 p.m.: This post has been updated with additional information and comments.

This story was originally posted at 4 a.m.

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Black-eyed child returns to terrify a town more than thirty years after she was last seen

September 29, 2014

heraldsun.com.au

- by:
- From: The Daily Telegraph

Haunting ... the black-eyed child. *Source:* Supplied

CHILLING sightings of a spectre known locally as The Black Eyed Child have returned to haunt a beauty spot after the spectre was last seen thirty years ago.

When the child was last seen she sparked worldwide interest — and is today a cult internet sensation.

Latest descriptions of the girl, who has coal-black pits for eye sockets, are identical to those chronicled in the early 1980s, UK's Birmingham Mail reports.

The spectre, described as having black eyes with 'no iris, no white, nothing', has been seen again in the area of Cannock Chase in the Midlands.

Alerted by what sounded like screams, a shocked woman came across the wandering, sightless spectre while walking in Birches Valley.

"We instantly started running towards the noise," she said. "We couldn't find the child anywhere and so stopped to catch our breath.

"That's when I turned round and saw a girl stood behind me, no more than 10 years old, with her hands over her eyes.

"It was as if she was waiting for a birthday cake.

"I asked if she was OK and if she had been the one screaming. She put her arms down by her side and opened her eyes.

"That's when I saw they were completely black, no iris, no white, nothing.

"I jumped back and grabbed my daughter. When I looked again, the child was gone. It was so strange."

Originally published as Black-eyed child returns to terrify a beauty spot

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Anomalies, Discoveries

Blood Falls hint at what's underneath

by idoubtit • April 29, 2015 • 2 Comments

This area of Antartica is dry with just ice, but appears to contain briny cold groundwater that may host some extreme life forms. The seeps of salty water contain iron oxide which turns blood red and stains the ice and ground. Creepy but a clue…

Scientists find the origin of Antarctica's creepy 'Blood Falls' – The Washington Post.

> Despite McMurdo's apparent dryness on the surface, it's always hinted at something more: The region is home to the magnificently creepy Blood Falls, a red ooze that shines bright against the otherwise desolate surface. For a while scientists believed that red algae gave this mysterious, bloody ooze its vibrant color. But even though iron oxide is responsible for the hue, analysis has shown that the feature does contain strange bacterial life.

Here is the abstract to the new paper.

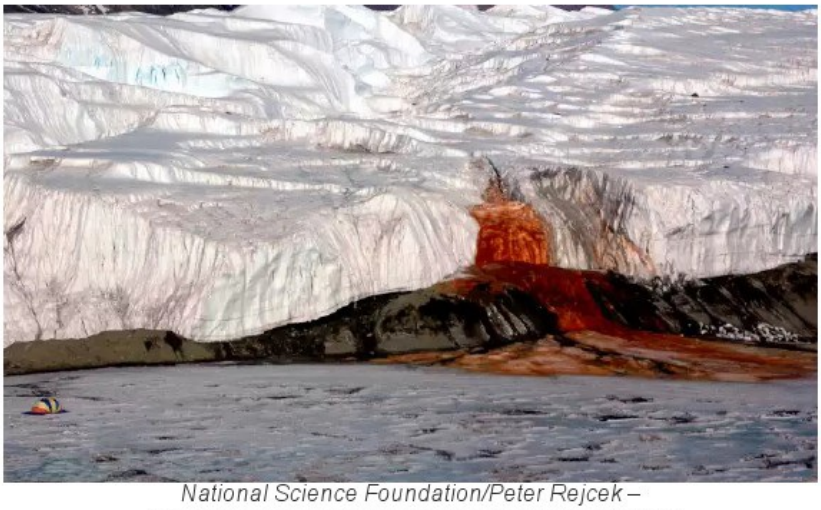
> The occurrence of groundwater in Antarctica, particularly in the ice-free regions and along the coastal margins is poorly understood. Here we use an airborne transient electromagnetic (AEM) sensor to produce extensive imagery of resistivity beneath Taylor Valley. Regional-scale zones of low subsurface resistivity were detected that are inconsistent with the high resistivity of glacier ice or dry permafrost in this region. We interpret these results as an indication that liquid, with sufficiently high solute content, exists at temperatures well below freezing and considered within the range suitable for microbial life. These inferred brines are widespread within permafrost and extend below glaciers and lakes. One system emanates from below Taylor Glacier into Lake Bonney and a second system connects the ocean with the eastern 18 km of the valley. A connection between these two basins was not detected to the depth limitation of the AEM survey (~350 m).

via Deep groundwater and potential subsurface habitats beneath an Antarctic dry valley : Nature Communications

This strange natural feature reminds us that there is more than meets the eye to anomalies and it just might pay off to study them.

idoubtit

Editor and owner of Doubtful News. Writer, specializing in science and society, science policy and education. View all posts by idoubtit →



National Science Foundation/Peter Rejcek – http://photolibrary.usap.gov/Portscripts/PortWeb.dll?

2 comments for "Blood Falls hint at what's underneath"

1. RandyRandy
April 29, 2015 at 3:48 PM

Iron oxide and saltwater. Oh. I was guessing it was human blood harvested from alien abductions, seeping out from their Hollow Earth alien base. But that wouldn't make any sense.

2. Phil

April 29, 2015 at 6:02 PM

I thought you were going to say Godzilla

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Body rolls from hearse at lights in pouring rain - National - NZ Herald News

nzherald.co.nz

By Morgan Tait, Scott Yeoman

10:14 AM Thursday May 14, 2015

Motorists and nearby workers saw the corpse lying on the road in the rain at the intersection of Great South and Puhinui Rds in Papatoetoe.

Horrified onlookers watched as a body strapped to a gurney was loaded back into the hearse it fell out of at a busy Auckland intersection this week.

Motorists and nearby workers saw the corpse, strapped to a gurney and covered in a sheet, lying on the road in the rain at the intersection of Great South and Puhinui Rds in Papatoetoe.

It was then loaded back into the hearse by the driver and bystanders.

Pacific Memorials co-owner Carina Zhang said the body had fallen out as it was being transported by the firm. She said the driver of the hearse had reported Tuesday's incident to her but she was unsure how it had happened. However, early indications were a faulty latch on the rear door was to blame.

The corpse had been inspected immediately and was unharmed, but the family of the deceased had not been told of the incident, said Ms Zhang.

One man, who wished not to be named, was stopped in his car at the intersection when he saw the hearse take off at the lights.

"I was just parked there and all of a sudden I saw the funeral car's boot open and something slipping out and it was a body."

The man took a photo of the incident on this phone, capturing an image of the hearse driver and a motorist trying to put the body back into the hearse in the pouring rain.

"I was about three cars back and saw it falling out. The driver had no idea and when he moved the vehicle to take off it just rolled back and the back opened."

Motorist Alison Smith said she pulled up at the intersection about 1pm to see the body "lying

on a gurney in the middle of the road behind the hearse".

"It was quite surreal, really, but because there were no cops and nothing appeared to have happened, I thought, 'Why is there a dead person on a gurney in the middle of the intersection?'

"The gurney - the wheels had collapsed, so it was just somebody lying in the middle of the road, in the rain.

"I was just thinking, if that was a member of my family, that would be so disturbing." The incident had blocked traffic flow and some motorists were quick to help, said Ms Smith.

"The funeral director was parked about a third of the way across the intersection ... The guy in the car behind had got out and they were trying to get the gurney back in, but the boot kept closing on the hearse."

A teenage passenger from another vehicle also helped, Ms Smith said.

"This really not much more than a kid, teenager, got out and held up the boot of the hearse so they could put the gurney back on."

Bobby Boskovic, who works at the nearby Manukau Park and Sell car-sales business, said he and his co-workers also saw the incident unfold.

"I just saw what looked like a body going back into a hearse ... I've seen lots of different things; nothing like that, though.

"I wasn't sure what the hell it was, but it looked like a body on a gurney."

Mr Boskovic's employee Amber Neale also saw the event unfold.

"It took us a while to comprehend or come to terms with what we were seeing," she said.

"It was one of those trolleys they have in the back of ambulances and when the wind stopped blowing the sheet and it was still, you could see the outline of a person lying down."

Ms Neale said the incident probably happened in the space of about two minutes.

"But when you think about it, and in the pouring rain, that's quite a long time."

Ms Zhang said the incident was "unfortunate" but the company had done everything it could to prevent it recurring.

"It was a really bad accident. The driver involved really was shocked. The body was okay; nothing happened to it. It was really a very unfortunate accident. We do feel so bad."

The hearse was being repaired, Ms Zhang said. "We are having the vehicle checked today [Wednesday] and trying to fix it. It's the latch on the back, they said."

Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand chief executive Katrina Shanks said Pacific Memorials was not one of its 100-plus accredited members.

"Unfortunately, there are operational failures on occasion and it sounds like this is one of those situations. It's extremely upsetting for the family for something like this to happen and my expectation will be that the funeral director is doing everything it can to make it easier for the family."

Ms Shanks, a former National MP, said the industry was not currently regulated, but a report by the Law Commission was due to be completed in October that might introduce legal operational standards.

The incident was not reported to the police.

'Understanding' family accepts apology

Ms Zhang said that she contacted the family of the body, that was being transferred from a hospital to the funeral home.

"We have contacted the family and apologised and they have been really wonderful. They expressed their understanding and they accepted our apology.

"We also contacted some families that we are going to serve in this coming week whose funeral might under the influence of this news.

"So far all our families are very generous and understanding."

The vehicle had now been fixed, she said.

"We also want to apologise through the newspaper to the publicise, especially those people involved on the scene. I believe it might be a horrible scene for them to see and also to the general public who might be offended by something like this."

Ms Zhang said the hearse's driver was very upset by the incident and was being supported by the company.

- NZ Herald

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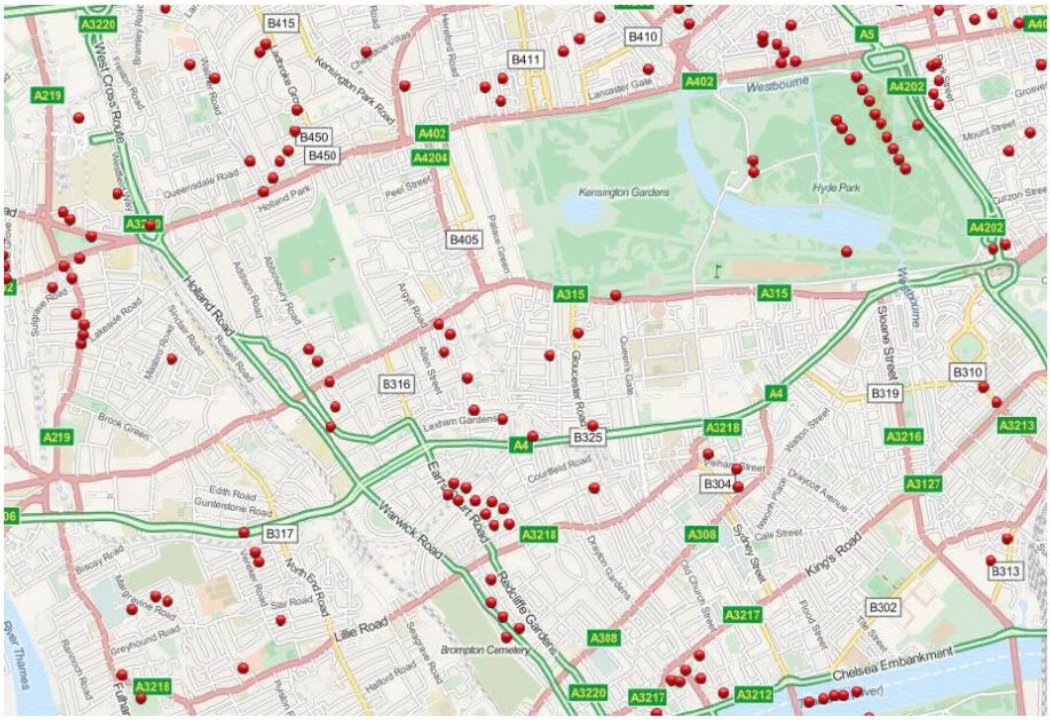
Did a Nazi bomb fall on your house? This map will tell you

Harry Readhead for Metro.co.uk
Wednesday 8 Apr 2015 7:56 am

http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/08/did-a-nazi-bomb-fall-on-your-house-this-map-will-tell-you-5139350/



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Bones of Oregon Trail pioneers being laid to rest on ranch near Glendo

wyomingnews.com

Beneath a little-traveled gravel road many miles east of Glendo State Park, a pioneer cemetery was discovered. Here, travelers from the Oregon Trail had buried their dead.

Over a period of 31 years, three skeletons began to emerge from their graves, right on Patten Creek Road, and were excavated.

Archaeologists from the University of Wyoming determined these remains belonged to two women and an adolescent boy. They were not of the same family, yet they were buried next to each other, sometime in the 1850s and 1860s, in the soft earth within view of a spring and a stand of trees where the travelers often took breaks.

As time went on, the spring became part of a privately owned ranch, and a gravel road that leads to Hartville was built above the graves.

Since the bones were unearthed, they have been kept at the University of Wyoming, where they were studied, analyzed and scanned.

But this Saturday, they will be returned to the ground. They will be wrapped in quilt tops, placed in wooden boxes and buried on the ranch, not far from where they were found.

Patsy Parkin with the Platte County Historic Society is planning the ceremony, which involves meeting at the Glendo Town Hall and caravanning to the ranch.

She wants it to be, more than anything, meaningful.

One of the UW archeology faculty who took part in two of the digs, Rick Weathermon, will give a talk about what is known of the three pioneers. Larry Cundall, brother of the current landowner, Robyn Rankin, will also talk about the land where he grew up and its rich history. Music will be sung and played on the violin. And members of the Platte County Historic Society have raised money for a marker that will be placed at the site.

All in all, the event should be solemn and respectful, Parkin said.

The descendants of the three pioneers are not known, though local researchers have pursued a few leads.

But with no matches made thus far, they'll be laid back to rest in a spot not far from where

their families - whoever they were - had left them.

Few things are definite about the two women and a boy whose bones were pulled out of the road.

Their identities aren't confirmed, nor do we know what they wanted to do in the Oregon territory or what they were leaving behind.

Only the grave of the adolescent boy was marked with a stone with the name "Jesse Cole," its faint etchings revealing that he died in July, either the 3rd or the 4th, sometime in the 1860s.

Yet their bones, the manner in which they were buried and even an old diary from the trail can tell us enough to create some composite sketches.

When we think of pioneers buried on the prairie and left behind, we think of the brutal and pragmatic realities of frontier life. But the fact that the three were buried next to each other reveals something, Weathermon said. Pioneers mourned.

A pack of men traveling to the California gold rush, for example, might simply dig a hole for their fellow traveler, who was just an acquaintance among many, and move on, Weathermon said. It was all about convenience.

Pioneers, on the other hand, were "specifically picking locations," he said. Some kept an eye out for large trees and overlooks. Others went so far as to keep track in their diaries of the graves they saw, noting people and dates when they could.

"As I understand it, the pioneers would bury people together so it wouldn't seem quite so lonely to bury them all by themselves," Parkin said.

One of these makeshift pioneer cemeteries was near Box Elder Springs, about 20 miles east of the town of Glendo, near where the three skeletons were excavated.

Here, travelers would often stop and water and graze their oxen, eat, gather wood and perhaps even camp overnight.

Before they had reached this spot, they had traveled a challenging landscape - rocky, hilly and slow going, especially when traveling by covered wagon and oxen.

Box Elder Springs "was a flat open camp area, rather than a rolling area," Weathermon said. "It's actually a pretty nice spot, even now."

The ashy soil is soft and easy to dig. Based on what the diaries say, there are something like 30 individuals buried in this area, Weathermon said, possibly more.

Though some trading posts sold coffins, the two women and the boy were laid in a bare hole in the ground, a plain wooden lid placed over them. Some pioneer diaries talked about a desire to give burial sites some kind of barrier protection from scavenging wolves and

coyotes, but Weathermon said it seemed the main purpose of these lids was to protect the bodies from the dirt.

"So it's more like digging a vault, placing the individual inside and placing this cover over it," Weathermon said.

Two of the skeletons bear some Native American attributes, Weathermon said. But remnants from their garments found at the site - buttons, metal clasps and glass beads - as well as the manner of burial, indicate these were people who identified as European-American. In the mid-1800s, it wouldn't be out of the question for someone traveling from the eastern U.S. to have, say, a great-grandmother who was Cherokee.

Along with shards of wood from the lids, fibers were gathered at the sites, indicating the women were wrapped in a buffalo hide or perhaps a feather bed. Jesse Cole's head rested on a pile of flat rocks.

And in these graves, evidence of other nearby gravesites was found, Weathermon said. From the grave of one of the two women, a few bones from an infant also were recovered. Jesse's grave had an extra thumb bone, which came from an older person, he said. Burrowing rodents had disturbed the sites, shifting things around.

Back in 1974, when the first skeleton was found, it was excavated by the UW Archaeology Department.

In their analysis, the skeleton was that of a young woman who appeared to be in her late 20s or early 30s when she died. They nicknamed her "Glenda," as she was found near Glendo. Her skull bears lines showing where her bones fused together, called sutures. These fade and eventually disappear as you age, Weathermon said, so in a much older person, the surface would be smooth and line-free. Small markings inside her pelvis suggest she was a mother, having given birth at least once.

And then there's Jesse Cole, the second skeleton, excavated in 2001. His skull was uncovered by a road grader and later discovered by bicyclists. When the archaeologists came, they found a makeshift gravestone had been placed on his lid. And luckily, it was placed carved side down, or the name and date may have worn away, as the marker was a soft, clay rock.

"It's chalk-like," Weathermon said. "Leave it in the weather, and it turns into muck very quickly."

The last digit of the year had melted away, so the best anyone can say is that young Jesse died sometime in the 1860s. Weathermon pointed to some other faint lines on the surface of the rock. It appears different letters were once carved there. They believe Jesse's family took the stone from someone else's pioneer grave and repurposed it.

The etchings in the rock are not deep. One would guess it took just a minute or two to scratch in Jesse's name and his date of death, though the carver attempted to make it look ornate,

with the addition of serifs - even if both S's are backward. Difficult to read without peering at it, one must tilt the rock so that the scratched lines forming the words and digits fall into shadow.

Jesse's bones suggest he had several years of growth ahead of him, as the rough surface of growth plates are still in place, and his femur bone is not yet fused, Weathermon said. The shape of his teeth and the additional bones in the back of his cranium suggest some Native American ancestry.

And then the third skeleton was unearthed in 2005. The analysis by UW places her age range in the mid-40s to late 50s.

And like Jesse, there is a good lead on who she is, a different kind of lead, though confirmation could be years away.

There's a diary kept by Oregon Trail traveler Abigail Scott, who came through with her family in 1852, departing from Illinois when she was 17. Her mother, Ann Roelosfson Scott, had died of cholera on the afternoon of June 20 at the age of 40.

Ann, a mother who had given birth to 12 children, was buried near a spring - believed to be Box Elder Springs - where the family had camped and then tended to the suddenly ill woman. The diary noted the burial took place next to the fresh grave of another woman who also had died at the same camp the night before.

"... Everything was done which we possibly could do to save her life; but her constitution, long impaired by disease, was unable to withstand the attack," Abigail wrote of her mother's sudden demise.

Another daughter, Etty, later wrote they had wrapped their mother in a feather bed and placed stones on top of the grave.

"The rolling hills were ablaze with beautiful wild roses ... and we heaped and covered mother's grave with the lovely roses, so the cruel stones were hid from view," Etty writes, according to the book, "Covered Wagon Women No. 5: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trail, 1852."

And after the burial, Abigail reflects on her mother's resting place: "The place of her interment is a romantic one and one which seems fitted for the last resting place of a lover of rural scenery such as she when in good health always delighted in it."

Again, there is no confirmation that this skeleton is the earthly remains of Ann Roelosfson Scott.

But if you were to say this woman had 12 children, Weathermon said, referring to the skeleton, "the evidence on the pelvis absolutely supports that."

The bones that make up the sacrum are "very, very curved," he said. "And that curvature really restricts the birth canal. She would have had a difficult time."

There are markings left on the bone inside the pelvis that are consistent with that of a woman who had experienced difficult births.

Weathermon also has a theory she had a rather invasive procedure for her last birth - barbaric by our standards. It was called a symphysiology, where in an obstructed birth, doctors would split the pelvic bone.

He had come to this conclusion more than a month ago, he said, by "pure serendipity." He had been reading old medical journals and came across descriptions of this procedure. When he had a final look at the skeletons before they were sent back to Glendo, it clicked.

"We had known all along the pubis on this individual was odd," he said.

Two bones that meet in the middle were porous, rather than smooth. They had wondered if this was related to arthritis or some other condition, he said.

But now, it appears it had been "sawed in half." And, apparently, she had not completely healed before starting out on the Oregon Trail. The recommended recovery time was staying in bed for a month, the pelvis immobilized by a sandbag.

"She survived this long enough to get out to Wyoming. This was not healed. That's one of the things that makes us think this might be the woman," he said. "We know she gave birth before they left. The daughter who wrote the diary wrote that she thought the difficult birth contributed to her death. She was already debilitated.

"I've not seen anything like it. The Smithsonian has not seen anything like it. It's unusual; it's very unusual."

With permission of the landowner, the archeology department is retaining a tooth and a small bone from each skeleton. If Scott's descendents are found and can provide a DNA sample, then this mystery may one day be solved.

The area near Glendo is known for the many treasures that can be found in the ground. Not only are there pioneer artifacts, there are dinosaur bones, and the "Spanish Diggings."

This creates many conflict points between individual property rights and community interests.

If it were up to Weathermon, the skeletons would stay at the university.

"Every time we do this, we take something away from scientific study. Once they're back in the ground, there's very little we can do," he said. "So we try to record everything we can about these individuals before that happens. There's always something new, some new technique that comes out, something else no one's thought of before that would add to scientific interpretation."

But at the same time, there are ethical concerns, he added.

"Basically, if you have someone who is unidentified, what are the problems with keeping them

here to be studied versus this overall perceived respect for the dead?" he said.

The landowner, along with her family and local history boosters, support reburial.

"Their family buried them out there, for heaven sakes," said Randy Brown, a local Oregon Trail researcher and advocate for the preservation of local landmarks. "That's where they belong."

Larry Cundall, the brother of the landowner, was asked why the bones should be reburied, rather than kept for research and study. He answered with a question: "Why bury anyone?"

State law says anyone who finds human remains must notify law enforcement.

That is what was done here, and the archaeology department was called in. In the end, it's up to the coroner to decide if bones like these should be retained at an educational institution like UW or returned to the landowner, Weathermon said.

Knowing just how many pioneers were buried along the Oregon Trail is something of a mystery.

Based on the numbers by Oregon Trail historian Merrill Mattes, there are potentially 4,000 to 6,000 people buried in Wyoming alone, Weathermon said.

"Archaeologically, we know of less than 100," Weathermon said. "Graves are not recorded very often."

One reason they are certain of such a small percentage of these burial sites is that landowners will seldom talk about it. Everyone interviewed for this piece said, in most cases, if a landowner discovers what appears to be a pioneer grave, he would most likely keep quiet about it.

Part of that is a wariness of getting outside entities involved.

"If you find something, you shut your mouth or you'll get the state involved, and it will shut down your project," Parkin said.

The other reason is entities like the UW Archaeology Department don't "go out looking for graves," even if they were to be invited to explore an area, Weathermon said.

"If the grave is not in danger of being destroyed, or if they're not going to plow it under, or if it's not being actively looted, we don't propose to do anything," Weathermon said. "The best place for these folks is where they were left by their loved ones."

When Cundall was asked about this, he said, "I think about 75 percent of the landowners would just as soon keep it quiet.

Once you open that box of worms, it's pretty hard to stuff it back in."

Just getting the bones back from UW took more time than he thought was necessary, he

added. And some agencies have a reputation for being especially difficult to work with.

But if every square foot of land that was historically significant was protected, there would be no usable land left, Cundall said.

"When I'm on horseback, I see something historically significant every time. I mean, to me it's part of our heritage. We see teepee rings - we don't destroy them," he said.

Even Parkin, still working through some details of the May 2 ceremony, needed a sounding board. Should Jesse Cole's stone be reburied, she asked, or kept on display someplace?

People she talked to so far were split on this issue, she told Cundall, Brown and Nancy Curtis during a recent lunchtime gathering in Glendo. But whether Jesse's stone went below ground or stayed above, Weathermon had warned her it would one day disintegrate.

"I'd like to see the stone reburied with the bones," Parkin said. "It seems to me we found it that way."

Said Cundall, "If we do, we gotta keep it quiet. Someone will just be digging it up."

"Put it back," said Curtis, who is the publisher of Glendo-based High Plains Press.

Keeping it is like grave robbing, she added.

But Brown, the Oregon Trail historian, thought burying it would be "throwing it away."

Yes, Cundall said, especially if the looters come and dig it up.

"To me, in a local museum, it would get some respect and be fairly well-protected," he said.

And what about the bones? Before the ceremony, should they be displayed or boxed up? She realizes some people might be offended and troubled at the sight of human skulls, she said.

"But let's face it, most people would want to see them," she said.

As interested as Parkin is in Oregon Trail history - she jokingly referred to herself as a "reincarnated pioneer" - and telling what she can about the three pioneers, she sometimes finds the whole situation of reburying these bones as "very macabre."

Indeed, everything surrounding this archaeology discovery and the ceremony - Jesse Cole's stone, the bones, the new marker, the beads, the buttons, the rock pillow - are sorrowful reminders of lives cut short, journeys not completed.

"The wagon trains had to keep going. That's why they didn't stop and mourn, which I think would be awful - with your wagon pulling off and seeing your mother's grave in the distance," Parkin said.

Paired with that are the Wyoming landmarks along the Oregon Trail, like the wagon wheel

ruts near Guernsey and the rock carvings of Register Cliff.

These markers bring home what a slow, struggling journey it was. One can't help but wonder if the pioneers really understood what they were facing. And if they did, would they have stayed home? Putting yourself in their boots in this middle of this vast, rocky, lonesome wild land, living by your wits, makes you feel small.

But recently, Parkin visited Oregon, and she found something very different at their Oregon Trail historic sites.

There, she said, she found described something that is perhaps lost and muted in the Oregon Trail stories: a spirit of victory and celebration, along with great pride among the people who finished it, pride that was passed on to their descendents.

In fact, the Oregon Trail was "the highlight of their lives," she said. "I think those folks knew they had done something very extraordinary."

They had, after all, walked across the new country, the great desert, and started new lives in a new land.

If you go

What: Honoring the Pioneers, a reburial of the three pioneer remains that were found emerging from their graves on Patten Creek Road. Learn the history about pioneers and the surrounding area. Bring camp chairs.

When: May 2, 1 p.m.

Where: Gather at Glendo Town Hall, 114 S. Yellowstone Highway, Glendo. Some time between 1-2 p.m., a caravan will depart to the Robyn Rankin ranch for the ceremony.

More info: Patsy Parkin of the Platte County Historic Society, or spriritquest@wyoming.com

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Brewdog just crowdfunded £5 million and dropped taxidermy 'fat cats' from a helicopter to prove a point

Lianna Brinded May 12, 2015, 9:49 AM 1,202
May 12, 2015, 9:49 AM

businessinsider.com

Brewdog just crowdfunded £5 million and dropped taxidermy 'fat cats' from a helicopter to prove a point

BrewDog dropped taxidermy 'fat cats' carrying the Equity for Punks prospectus from a helicopter over the City.

Brewdog

Scotland's biggest independent brewery Brewdog just revealed that it raised £5 million ($7.8 million), via its crowdfunding scheme Equity for Punks, in just 20 days.

This is a massive milestone because in 2013 it raised £4.25 million ($6.63 million), minus costs, in just over six months.

It also has purposely aimed to raise £25 million ($39 million) in total across its crowdfunding scheme in a bid to stop financial institutions from cashing in on its fundraising efforts.

To celebrate Brewdog hitting a fifth of its target in such a short space of time, the group, which possibly has the most outspoken company owners in the industry, dropped taxidermy "fat cats" over London to prove a point.

“We’re very pleased with the response Equity for Punks has received. It’s proof that there is a thirst for alternative finance out there, and that people are sick and tired of the fat cats controlling everyone’s money,” said BrewDog co-founder James Watt in a statement.

“This round of Equity for Punks has got off to a great start so we went behind enemy lines to conduct a symbolic gesture that heralds the extinction of the City fat cat. This is our way of showcasing the viability of alternative forms of finance, it is our own anti-propaganda propaganda. It’s a glorious combination of art, guerrilla warfare, taxidermy and feline sartorial elegance.

"Crowdfunding should no longer be seen as a niche alternative, but a proven, workable option for those libertines and change-makers who want to shake up the status quo.”

Brewdog was founded by Martin Dickie and James Watt in 2007 with second-hand equipment. It is now Britain’s fastest-growing food and drinks brand. It has opened 27 bars worldwide since 2010 and exports to 55 countries around the world. It employs more than 360 staff.

Earlier this year, Brewdog announced its sixth consecutive year of record growth. It increased its annual turnover by 64% to over £29.6 million in 2014, compared with £18 million in 2013. Its turnover is expected to exceed £50 million this year.

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Bryn Celli Ddu: Ancient Stone Circle and Passage Tomb Was for the Living and the Dead

ancient-origins.net

Bryn Celli Ddu: Ancient Stone Circle and Passage Tomb Was for the Living and the Dead

18 April, 2015 - 03:41dhwty

Bryn Celli Ddu: Ancient Stone Circle and Passage Tomb Was for the Living and the Dead

Stonehenge is arguably one of the most iconic prehistoric monuments in the UK. Nevertheless, this ancient structure is just one of many henges found across the country. The fame gained by Stonehenge has eclipsed many of the other stone circles found in the UK, sites largely unknown to most people. Nevertheless, these lesser known structures are interesting and impressive in their own right, and deserve attention. Bryn Celli Ddu, on the island of Anglesy in Wales, is one such ancient monument that was not only a stone circle, but also functioned as a 'passage tomb'. It was a place to pay respects to, and protect the remains of ancestors.

Bryn Celli Ddu. "The Mound in a Dark Grove". Originally a Neolithic burial chamber, later a passage grave. This tomb could be entered back in 1991 and contained a cast of a spiral carved stone to the rear.

Bryn Celli Ddu. "The Mound in a Dark Grove". Originally a Neolithic burial chamber, later a passage grave. This tomb could be entered back in 1991 and contained a cast of a spiral carved stone to the rear. Wikimedia

Bryn Celli Ddu may be translated as 'The Mound in the Dark Grove', and some have speculated that during its time of construction, it was located in a large clearing surrounded entirely by a forest. Today, however, there are no signs of a forest apart from a few small trees nearby. Archaeologists have suggested that the original stone circles were set up during the Neolithic period, around 3000 B.C.

An outer circular bank and an inner ditch encircled the area, which was originally 21 meters (69 feet) in diameter, and defined the parameters of the monument. Today, only the inner ditch is still visible. Within the bank and ditch was a ritual enclosure that included a circle of standing stones. Some of these stones have survived till today.

Decorated standing stone outside the southeast side of the Bryn Celli Ddu burial mound. Wikimedia

According to archaeologists, the function of Bryn Celli Ddu changed towards the end of the Neolithic, around a thousand years after it was built. Bryn Celli Ddu became a passage tomb, a type of burial monument found around the Irish seaboard. Some of the standing stones were deliberately destroyed, and a mound was built over the ritual enclosure. Within the mound was a polygonal stone chamber that

Decorated standing stone outside the southeast side of the Bryn Celli Ddu burial mound.

was reached via an 8 meter (26 foot) long passageway.

In the passage, archaeologists have found both burnt and unburnt human bones, as well as other small finds including pieces of quartz, flint arrowheads, a stone bead, and limpet and mussel shells. In a ceremonial pit at the back of the chamber, archaeologists have also discovered a carved stone with a serpentine design. Once thought to be made from stone, it is now believed that they are the remains of a petrified tree trunk. The burial mound would have also had a retaining wall built around it that stretched about 25 meters (82 feet) on each side.

Model of Bryn Celli Ddu in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Model of Bryn Celli Ddu in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Wikimedia Commons

Most people today would agree that the passage tomb was a later alteration to the stone circle of Bryn Celli Ddu. Some, however, have challenged this long-standing interpretation. Steve Burrow, the Curator of Neolithic Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales has argued that the stone circle and the passage tomb co-existed at the same time, and that the former could have been erected as a ritual boundary outside of the latter. Burrow also tested an early 20th century idea that Bryn Celli Ddu was accurately aligned to coincide with the rising sun on the summer solstice, the longest day of the day. It took two tries before Burrow succeeded in recording the rays of light that penetrated down the passage way into the burial chamber on the dawn of the summer solstice.

Passageway to interior, Bryn Celli Ddu, Wales.

Passageway to interior, Bryn Celli Ddu, Wales. Wikimedia

In 1865 Bryn Celli Ddu was first explored seriously, though it was only in 1928 that a thorough excavation was conducted at the site. At the end of the excavation in 1929, some of the structures were repositioned. As of today, Bryn Celli Ddu is a 'Neolithic Scheduled Monument', meaning that it is considered an important archaeological site in the country, and receives legal protection from damage and destruction. It is also under the care of Cadw, the historic environment service of the Welsh government.

In all, this Neolithic monument has served many purposes over the centuries, and remains standing as a testament to the understandings and observances of our ancient ancestors.

The Neolithic monument and burial chamber, Bryn Celli Ddu in Wales. Kate/

Featured image: The northeast entrance to the burial mound at Bryn Celli Ddu.Public Domain

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By Dẖwty

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Calgary Stampede 2015 midway to feature $100 hot dog, cockroach pizza

2015/04/30 **cbc.ca**

Almost 30 new midway foods this year

CBC News Posted: Apr 30, 2015 2:22 PM MT Last Updated: Apr 30, 2015 3:32 PM MT

Frozen dulce de leche ice pops, peppered with mini-donuts.

Calgary Stampede 2014 to offer scorpion pizza, crocodile sliders

Adventurous eaters — and rich ones — will be happy to hear the Calgary Stampede has almost 30 new midway foods this July.

"We've spent the last year seeking out the best and craziest foods from all over North America to bring you the best new midway foods out there," said midway manager James Radke in a release.

The $100 hot dog is no ballpark tube steak. It contains Bratwurst, Kobe beef, truffle oil, a dribble of $2,000 cognac and some Atlantic lobster. (DougieDog)

From cockroach pizzas and mini-doughnut ice pops, to lobster corn dogs, and the most expensive hot dog in the world.

The foot-long 'Dragon Dog' is a cognac-infused bratwurst, smothered Kobe beef with truffles and fresh lobster. It's served inside a sweet bread bun and at $100 a pop, it's by far the priciest Stampede snack.

Its creator, Vancouver-based Dougie Luv of DougieDog, were featured on CBC's Dragon Den.

Check out the photo gallery above to see some this year's other new midway offerings.

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Canadian: 'I Found a Bunker, People and Missiles in Mars Photograph' - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

Posted on Apr 19 2015 - 3:45pm by Cryptozoology News

CANADA — A man on Saturday shared the images containing what he believes to be a populated bunker in Mars.

Former journalist Andre Gignac told Cryptozoology News that the "stunning discovery" was found in a photograph released by NASA and taken by the Mars Exploration Rover, also known as Opportunity.

Gignac said that he became "curious" about a "dark spot" on the rim of the *Endeavour* crater he had spotted in the original image, so he decided to investigate deeper.

anomaly mars bunker window

"I was stunned. It was a massive panoramic window built in the inside wall of the crater," said the 58 year old.

And, to Cignac's surprise, there was something else he says is proof of the alleged artificial structure. According to the Mars enthusiast, there were also people inside the window.

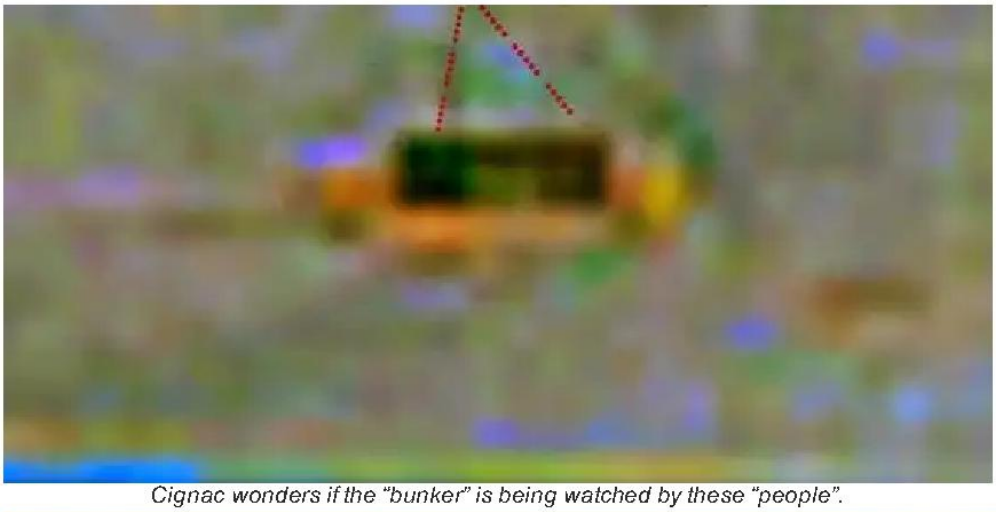
"You can see a person behind the bunker's window," he pointed out.

He believes that the "bunker", built in solid rock, could also be a "corridor leading to a bigger bunker".

"Also, not far from this 'bunker'," he says, "are missiles, rockets and structures deployed in a circle".

Cignac says he finds the anomalies using the "usual tools", such as focus, contrast, exposure, color and tint.

The writer, who says he has been interested in astronomy since the 1970s, claims to have



Cignac wonders if the "bunker" is being watched by these "people".

been closely looking at images of Mars every day for the past eleven months.

"I always look carefully at a given picture of Mars, the decide to focus in one or more areas of the photo. I enlarge said areas,

From left to right: Structures, missiles and rockets Cignac believes he has found in NASA's photograph.

and if nothing of interest appears, I let go and pass on to another area of the photo. I do not change anything, I do not add anything."

He claims to have worked for Publications Québecor in Montreal and the United Nations Organization in New York and currently maintains a website where he writes about his most recent findings.

But many people believe that most of the anomalies found in pictures of the Red Planet are nothing but acute cases of paredolia.

"I stand ready to be convinced that I have possibly hallucinated. I won't mind being told that I'm wrong," Cignac says.

Others think that natural agents, such as solar wind and acid fog, are the cause of the visual oddities. NASA has previously stated that groundwater could be the source for erosion in specific sand formations and narrow channels, such as gullies.

However, professor Alan D. Howard at the University of Virginia says that "many landforms on Mars remain enigmatic" and are therefore subject to interpretation.

In November 2014, a British man believed to have found the remains of a "giant humanoid" in

another picture of Mars.

Cignac remains convinced that his finding is real and that he might have "stumbled upon the deployment of Missiles" on the planet.

"I think people must be told about aliens busying themselves with bunkers, missiles and rockets right in our backyard! These images are undeniable. They are definitive proof not only that 'we are not alone', but also that aliens have landed on Mars and could be up to something," he said.

2 Comments so far. Feel free to join this conversation.

1. **Marshall Cypress**April 24, 2015 at 8:41 am -

   sigh, just another drug enhanced photo, blurry, with nothing in it even remotely resembling the claims.

2. **Steve D**April 24, 2015 at 8:56 am -

   Well I'm convinced. He has a dark spot roughly 2 x 10 pixels, and a couple of lighter pixels in the middle. I can see four tentacles and the alien is a Grand Imperator, judging from his rank insignia.

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Did Neanderthals eat their own children? Bizarre death rites exposed

mirror.co.uk

Cannibal Neanderthal mystery: Did ancient cavemen eat their own children during bizarre death rites?

- 11:04, 15 April 2015
- By Jasper Hamill

Archaeologists make grizzly find which suggests pre-humans engaged in sinister 'gastronomic cannabalism'

Getty

Unhappy family: Neanderthals did not always treat their children very well

Neanderthals may have eaten their own children as well as other adults, researchers have suggested.

Experts from the University of Bordeaux analysed the remains of a child aged between nine or 10 and found signs the body had been manipulated after death.

Professor María Dolores Garrald identified two large cut marks which suggest adults were trying to cut the dead child's thigh bone with flint tools to separate it from the joint.

This could suggest our barbaric ancestors ate the child, she claimed, although it is impossible to know for sure.

We already know Neanderthals had sex with humans and also enjoyed inbreeding, but the new research could be the grimmest ever insight into the lives of our ancient relatives.

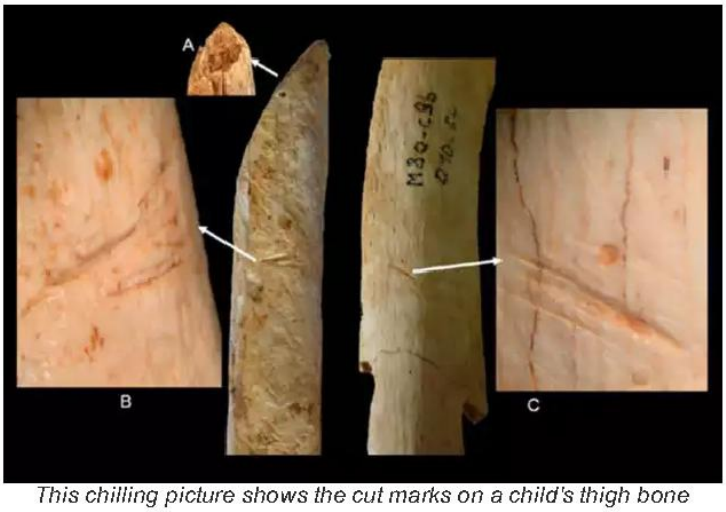
“They might have been rituals – still in the 21 century these continue in certain parts of the world – or for food – gastronomic cannibalism or due to need,” she said.

This chilling picture shows the cut marks on a child's thigh bone

These 57,600-year-old remains were first dug up from the Marrliac site in France between 1967 and 1980, but the research sheds new light on the child's unhappy end.

Even if the child didn't end up as dinner for some brutal adult, it is clear the Neanderthals carried out bizarre and morbid rites on dead bodies.

Professor Garralda added: "Some Neanderthal groups cut and tore apart child or adult



This chilling picture shows the cut marks on a child's thigh bone

corpses shortly after death."

Experts have not yet been able to find unequivocal evidence to show Neanderthals "ate human meat" even though it is known to happen in "other much more modern populations", Professor Garrald added.

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Carl Moore: 73-Year-Old Man Punches Bear In The Face, Rescues His Dog

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Animal News Posted: April 29, 2015

Carl Moore: 73-Year-Old Man Punches Bear In The Face, Rescues His Dog

When you come face-to-face with a bear, the most likely option you would choose is to run away from it. Not if you are this gritty old man from Placer County, California, though. Carl Moore is all of 73-years-old and he isn't scared of bears. In fact, when a bear came face to face with him the last time, Moore punched it in the face instead of calling wildlife officials.

According to CBS Sacramento, it was last week that Carl Moore had his tryst with a wild bear. And Moore did not punch the bear in the face for no reason. The bear had apparently gotten into his front yard and was about to attack his tiny dog, Lacy. The dog had started whimpering at the sight of the bear that had wandered into his home. Annoyed at this act of trespassing by the bear, he charged straight at the bear and landed a punch right at its face. In an interview to CBS Sacramento, Moore says he is afraid of nothing.

> "The man or beast that I run from ain't been born, and his momma's already dead."

The gutsy old man goes on.

> "I ain't run from nothing; I never have in my whole life and I ain't going to start now. And you're not going to sacrifice my babies for some damn bear."

Describing the moment the bear entered his home, Moore said he initially raised both his hands at cussed at the bear as a warning.

> "I raised both hands in the air and I cussed at him, 'Rrraaaaaaa! Get out of here you b*****d, and he looked at me like 'Go eff yourself.' "

Carl Moore then did the unthinkable. He headed straight to the bear and landed a whirling haymaker onto its face.

> "He come up like this, and turned, boom, I hit him hard. Tyler said I damn corkscrewed his head."

According to John Sargent, one of John Moore's friends, the bear was only slightly shorter than Carl but was still a formidable opponent. Sargent added that Moore is known to be a tough guy thanks to his experience as an ex-first recon Marine.

"He's an ex-first recon Marine. He's been in barroom brawls, all kinda stuff," Sargent said.

Carl Moore is happy his actions saved his dog's life and is hopeful that the bear will take care to ensure that he doesn't mess with Moore anymore in the future!

Incidentally, the report about Carl Moore fighting a bear all alone came on the same day the *Inquisitr* reported about the story of a man who fought off a leopard using just a stick.

[Image via KOVR-TV Sacramento]

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Centuries of Italian History Are Unearthed in Quest to Fix Toilet nytimes.com

Luciano Faggiano and his sons were digging to fix a pipe in Lecce, Italy. They found a buried world tracing back before Jesus. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times

LECCE, Italy — All Luciano Faggiano wanted when he purchased the seemingly unremarkable building at 56 Via Ascanio Grandi was to open a trattoria. The only problem was the toilet.

Sewage kept backing up. So Mr. Faggiano enlisted his two older sons to help him dig a trench and investigate. He predicted the job would take about a week.

If only.

"We found underground corridors and other rooms, so we kept digging," said Mr. Faggiano, 60.

His search for a sewage pipe, which began in 2000, became one family's tale of obsession and discovery. He found a subterranean world tracing back before the birth of Jesus: a Messapian tomb, a Roman granary, a Franciscan chapel and even etchings from the Knights Templar. His trattoria instead became a museum, where relics still turn up today.

Italy is a slag heap of history, with empires and ancient civilizations built atop one another like layers in a cake. Farmers still unearth Etruscan pottery while plowing their fields. Excavation sites are common in ancient cities such as Rome, where protected underground relics have for years impeded plans to expand the subway system.

Luciano Faggiano and his sons were digging to fix a pipe in Lecce, Italy. They found a buried world tracing back before Jesus. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times Mr.

Situated in the heel of the Italian boot, Lecce was once a critical crossroads in the Mediterranean, coveted by invaders from Greeks to Romans to Ottomans to Normans to Lombards. For centuries, a marble column bearing a statue of Lecce's patron saint, Orontius, dominated the city's central piazza — until historians, in 1901, discovered a Roman amphitheater below, leading to the relocation of the column so that the amphitheater could be excavated.

"The very first layers of Lecce date to the time of Homer, or at least according to legend," said Mario De Marco, a local

Faggiano and his sons recently excavated a new area beneath the building in Lecce. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times The relics Mr. Faggiano and his sons recently excavated are displayed on site. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times

historian and author, noting that invaders were enticed by the city's strategic location and the prospects for looting. "Each one of these populations came and left a trace."

Severo Martini, a member of the City Council, said archaeological relics turn up on a regular basis — and can present a headache for urban planning. A project to build a shopping mall had to be redesigned after the discovery of an ancient Roman temple beneath the site of a planned parking lot.

"Whenever you dig a hole," Mr. Martini said, "centuries of history come out."

Ask the Faggiano family. Mr. Faggiano planned to run the trattoria on the ground floor and live upstairs with his wife and youngest son. Before they started digging, Mr. Faggiano's oldest son, Marco, was studying film in Rome. His second son, Andrea, had left home to attend college. The building was seemingly modernized, with clean white walls and a new heating system.

"I said, 'Come, I need your help, and it will only be a week,' " Mr. Faggiano recalled.

But one week quickly passed, as father and sons discovered a false floor that led down to another floor of medieval stone, which led to a tomb of the Messapians, who lived in the region centuries before the birth of Jesus. Soon, the family discovered a chamber used to store grain by the ancient Romans, and the basement of a Franciscan convent where nuns had once prepared the bodies of the dead.

If this history only later became clear, what was immediately obvious was that finding the pipe would be a much bigger project than Mr. Faggiano had anticipated. He did not initially tell his wife about the extent of the work, possibly because he was tying a rope around the chest of his youngest son, Davide, then 12, and lowering him to dig in small, darkened openings.

"I made sure to tell him not to tell his mama," he said.

His wife, Anna Maria Sanò, soon became suspicious. "We had all these dirty clothes, every day," she said. "I didn't understand what was going on."

After watching the Faggiano men haul away debris in the back seat of the family car, neighbors also became suspicious and notified the authorities. Investigators arrived and shut down the excavations, warning Mr. Faggiano against operating an unapproved archaeological work site. Mr. Faggiano responded that he was just looking for a sewage pipe.

A year passed. Finally, Mr. Faggiano was allowed to resume his pursuit of the sewage pipe on condition that heritage officials observed the work. An underground treasure house emerged, as the family uncovered ancient vases, Roman devotional bottles, an ancient ring with Christian symbols, medieval artifacts, hidden frescoes and more.

"The Faggiano house has layers that are representative of almost all of the city's history, from the Messapians to the Romans, from the medieval to the Byzantine time," said Giovanni

Luciano Faggiano and his sons were digging to fix a pipe in Lecce, Italy. They found a buried world tracing back before Jesus. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times Mr. Faggiano and his sons recently excavated a new area beneath the building in Lecce. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times The relics Mr. Faggiano and his sons recently excavated are displayed on site. Credit Davide Monteleone for The New York Times

Giangreco, a cultural heritage official, now retired, involved in overseeing the excavation.

City officials, sensing a major find, brought in an archaeologist, even as the Faggianos were left to do the excavation work and bear the costs. Mr. Faggiano also engaged in extensive research into the eras tiered below him. The two older sons, Marco and Andrea, found their lives interrupted by their father's quest.

"We were kind of forced to do it," said Andrea, now 34, laughing. "I was going to university, but then I would go home to excavate. Marco as well."

Mr. Faggiano still dreamed of a trattoria, even if the project had become his white whale. He supported his family with rent from an upstairs floor in the building and income on other properties.

"I was still digging to find my pipe," he said. "Every day we would find new artifacts."

Years passed. His sons managed to escape, with Andrea moving to London. City archaeologists pushed Mr. Faggiano to keep going. His own architect advised that digging deeper would help clear out sludge below the planned bathroom, should he still hope to open his trattoria. He admits he also became obsessed.

"At one point, I couldn't take it anymore," he recalled. "I bought cinder blocks and was going to cover it up and pretend it had never happened.

"I don't wish it on anyone."

Today, the building is Museum Faggiano, an independent archaeological museum authorized by the Lecce government. Spiral metal stairwells allow visitors to descend through the underground chambers, while sections of glass flooring underscore the building's historical layers.

His docent, Rosa Anna Romano, is the widow of an amateur speleologist who helped discover the Grotto of Cervi, a cave on the coastline near Lecce that is decorated in Neolithic pictographs. While taking an outdoor bathroom break, the husband had noticed holes in the ground that led to the underground grotto.

"We were brought together by sewage systems," Mr. Faggiano joked.

Mr. Faggiano is now satisfied with his museum, but he has not forgotten about the trattoria. A

few years into his excavation, he finally found his sewage pipe. It was, indeed, broken. He has since bought another building and is again planning for a trattoria, assuming it does not need any renovations. He has no plans to lift a shovel.

“I still want it,” he said of the trattoria. “I’m very stubborn.”

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A History of the Two Worst Circus Tragedies

blogspot.com

Chas' Compilation

Thursday, January 12, 2012

We recently saw a good movie, "Water for Elephants". It involves a circus in the 1930's, where a tragedy happens.

The story begins in the present, where the main character, now an old man, begins to tell the story of that tragedy to a present-day circus owner. Leading up to that, in their conversation they mention two other circus tragedies, the Hartford circus fire in Connecticut in 1944, at the Ringling Bros. Circus, and the Hammond Circus Train Wreck in Hammond Indiana, involving the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus.

The tragedy in "Water for Elephants" is fictional, but the two tragedies referred to really did happen, so I looked them up. Quite a bit of history there:

The Day the Clowns Cried

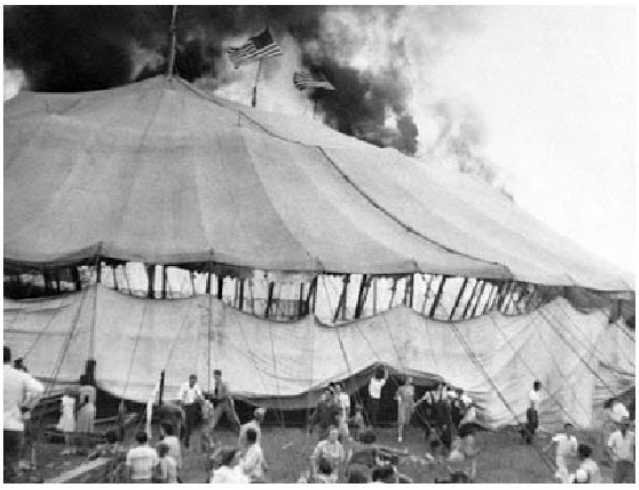
The worst tragedy in the annals of circus history occurred during the afternoon show of the Ringling Brothers Circus on July 6, 1944, at Hartford, Connecticut. With nearly 7,000 people enjoying the performance, the big tent suddenly became engulfed in flames. As fire spread up the side walls and raced across the top of the tent, the bandmaster, Merle Evans, swung his band into the song Stars and Stripes Forever -- the circus disaster tune. The sound of this tune moved all employees into high gear. The horses, elephants, the lions and tigers, were quickly led out of the tent out of danger.

People stampeded toward the exit they had entered from. Unfortunately, this was the end on fire. Fire had not spread to the other end yet and employees tried directing them to that exit. In the panic, crowds still stampeded the end on fire. Three minutes later, the tent poles started collapsing and the roof -- what was left -- caved in. In six minutes total, almost all of the tent was burned completely and the entire area was nothing more than smoldering ashes. 168 men, women and children died as a result. Hundreds more were badly injured.

The feeling of responsibility to the victims was uppermost in the circus management's minds. Five of the top management personnel at Ringling's were arrested on changes of manslaughter and subsequently served sentences and were ultimately pardoned by the State of Connecticut. In addition, due to the fire, Ringling's found itself with over four million dollars in damage claims from victim's families. [...]

The rest of the article also has a link to photos at the end.

Wikipedia has a more detailed description:



[...] The fire began as a small flame about 20 minutes into the show, on the southwest sidewall of the tent, while the Great Wallendas were on. Circus Bandleader Merle Evans is said to be the person who first spotted the flames, and immediately directed the band to play "Stars and Stripes Forever", the tune that traditionally signaled distress to all circus personnel. Ringmaster Fred Bradna urged the audience not to panic and to leave in an orderly fashion, but the power failed and he could not be heard. Bradna and the ushers unsuccessfully tried to maintain some order as the panicked crowd tried to flee the big top.

Sources and investigators differ on how many people were killed and injured.

Various people and organizations say it was 167, 168, or 169 persons (the 168 figure is usually based on official tallies that included a collection of body parts that were listed as a "victim") with official treated injury estimates running over 700 people. The number of actual injuries is believed to be higher than those figures, since many people were seen that day heading home in shock without seeking treatment in the city. The only animals in the big top at the time were the big cats trained by May Kovar and Joseph Walsh that had just finished performing when the fire started. The big cats were herded through the chutes leading from the performing cages to several cage wagons, and were unharmed except for a few minor burns.

The cause of the fire remains unproven. Investigators at the time believed it was caused by a carelessly flicked cigarette but others suspected an arsonist. Several years later while being investigated on other arson charges, Robert Dale Segee (1929–1997) who was an adolescent roustabout at the time, confessed to starting the blaze. He was never tried for the crime and later recanted his confession.

Because the big top tent had been coated with 1,800 lb (816 kg) of paraffin wax dissolved in 6,000 US gallons (23 m^3) of gasoline (some sources say kerosene), a common waterproofing method of the time, the flames spread rapidly. Many people were badly burned by the melting paraffin, which rained down like napalm from the roof. The fiery tent collapsed in about eight minutes according to eyewitness survivors, trapping hundreds of spectators beneath it.

The circus had been experiencing shortages of personnel and equipment due to World War II. Delays and malfunctions in the ordinarily smooth order of the circus had become commonplace. Two years earlier, on August 4, 1942, a fire had broken out in the menagerie, killing a number of animals. Circus personnel were concerned about the 1944 Hartford show for other reasons. Two shows had been scheduled for July 5, but the first had to be canceled because the circus trains arrived late and the circus could not set up in time. In circus superstition, missing a show is considered extremely bad luck, and although the July 5 evening show ran as planned, many circus employees may have been on their guard, half-expecting an emergency or catastrophe.

It is commonly believed that the number of fatalities is higher than the estimates given, due to poorly kept residency records in rural towns, and the fact that some smaller remains were never identified or claimed. It is also believed that the intense heat from the fire combined with the accelerants, the paraffin and gasoline, could have incinerated people completely, as in cremation, leaving no substantial physical evidence behind. Additionally, free tickets had been handed out that day to many people in and around the city, some of whom appeared to eyewitnesses and circus employees to be drifters, who would never have been reported missing by anyone if they were killed in the disaster. The number of people in the audience that day has never been established with certainty, but the closest estimate is about 7,000.[1]

While many people were burned to death by the fire, many others died as a result of the ensuing chaos. Though most spectators were able to escape the fire, many people were caught up in the hysteria and panicked. Witnesses said some people simply ran around in circles trying to find their loved ones, rather than trying to escape the burning tent. Some escaped but ran back inside to find family members. Others stayed in their seats until it was too late, assuming that the fire would be put out promptly, and the show would continue.

Because at least two of the exits were blocked, by the chutes used to bring the large felines in and out of the tent, people trying to escape could not bypass them. Some died from injuries sustained after leaping from the tops of the bleachers in hopes they could escape under the sides of the tent, though that method of escape ended up killing more people than it saved. Others died after being trampled by other spectators, with some asphyxiating underneath the piles of people who had fallen down over each other.

Most of the dead were found in piles, some three bodies deep, at the most congested exits. A small number of people were found alive at the bottoms of these piles, protected by the bodies that were on top of them when the burning big top ultimately fell down on those still trapped beneath it. Because of a picture that appeared in several newspapers of sad tramp clown Emmett Kelly holding a water bucket, the event became known as "the day the clowns cried." [...]

Visit the Wiki page to see all the embedded links, and more details.

Google Images has more pictures from the fire.

And YouTube has film footage, some of it in color:

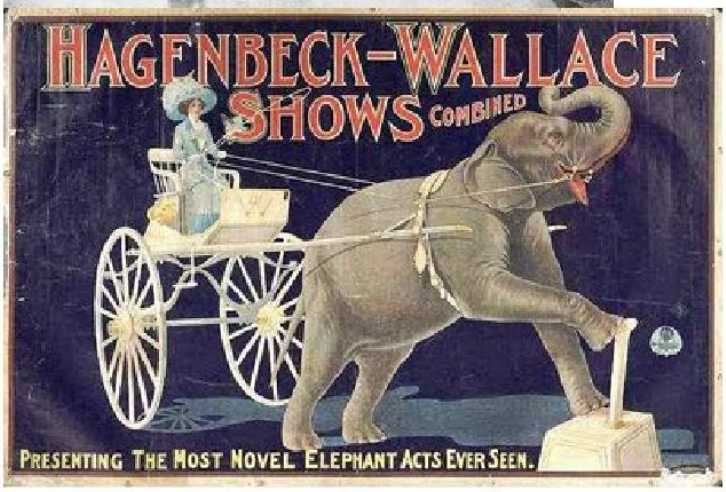
I grew up in Connecticut, and my mom is from Hartford. She was a little kid back then, and she tried to get her parents to take her to that afternoon show. They wouldn't. What a blessing that turned out to be.

The fire was not only the worst circus accident, but also the worst fire in American history, in terms of loss of life and injuries (or so I read somewhere).

The other disaster involved the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus in 1918:

A circus tragedy lost to history

[...] The largest corner of the plot, the part holding those scores of unidentified bodies, is a mass grave, a result of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train wreck on June 22, 1918; it happened in northwest Indiana, between Gary and Hammond. At least 187 people were injured, and an estimated 86 were killed — according to news reports from the time, many of the bodies were so charred and pulled apart it was hard to finalize an exact count.



The flagman waved a lit flare at the speeding train, now bearing down. It was approaching too fast. His own train, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train, had stopped on the Michigan Central line. Engineers were cooling an overheated axle box. It was 4 a.m., June 22, 1918, just outside of Hammond. The circus train had left Michigan City hours before and was headed to Hammond for a show. The train behind it, a 21-car military troop transport, had left Michigan City about an hour later. It barreled forward now.

The troop train was empty. The driver, a 28-year Michigan Central veteran named Alonzo Sargent, was asleep inside. According to testimony, he passed two yellow signals of caution, then two red signals. In addition, the flagman had left a flare of

warning on the tracks about a mile behind the stopped circus train.

Sargent passed this too.

Before the trains collided, the circus flagman testified, that in a last desperate attempt at getting the attention of the sleeping engineer, he flung his flare at the front window of the hurtling locomotive.

Thanks to the growth of railroads, in 1918 the traveling circus was in its heyday, said Steve Freese, executive director of the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wis. "It was the golden age of the circus, and the primary entertainment for small Midwest towns. Hundreds lined the tracks just to watch them unload."

The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, formed in 1907 and headquartered in Peru, Ind. (now the site of the International Circus Hall of Fame), had become one of the most popular circuses in the country. Famed lion tamer Clyde Beatty was a member. So was a young Red Skelton, tagging alongside his father, a Hagenbeck-Wallace clown. The circus also had a history of trouble: train wrecks, fires, even a flood, which killed eight elephants.

Nevertheless, remnants remain. Circus World lent vintage Hagenbeck-Wallace wagons to the production of "Water for Elephants," including animal cages and baggage wagons. "There was really no way we could have ever built them from scratch," said David Crank, the film's art director. "And we had to repaint them, to match the circus that's in the film. But really, it was like handling this whole world that nobody remembers anymore. Those circus wagons were, like, 5,000 pounds apiece. You can't imagine a wreck of these things."

The military train, made of steel, hit the circus cars at 35 mph, slicing through the caboose, then two cars of sleeping crew, then a car carrying black employees, then a car filled with performers. The circus cars were made of wood, and splintered before piling up. Survivors later said the cars were jumbled so high that as they climbed from the wreckage they found themselves standing above nearby telegraph wires.

Many died during the initial collision; many more died from the resulting fire. The old-fashioned cars were still lit by kerosene lanterns. The Flying Wards, a trapeze act, lost a member; every one of the McDhu Sisters, who rode elephants and did aerial stunts, died. Two strongmen died. Joe Coyle, the father in a family clown act, escaped, but watched from the road as his wife and sons died in the fire, just out of reach.

The circus traveled with about 50 cars, in two sets. Most of the performers and crew had been asleep in the second set. The animals were in the first, 90 minutes ahead of the collision. None died. According to a Tribune story that ran the day after the accident, the first set pulled into Hammond and sat unloaded as "a silent

group" stood around "the big boss in charge," who solemnly checked off a roster of employees.

After the wreck, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus canceled only one show, the Hammond performance. Circuses around the country pitched in and lent performers and according to the Showmen's League, within a day of the disaster the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus was performing its scheduled show in Wisconsin.

Sargent was arrested after the accident and charged with manslaughter. Despite being found responsible by federal transportation officials — the cause was sleeping on the job, they said — he was acquitted.

The rest of this history is a mix of the good, sad and curious. The accident led to regulations mandating sleep for train crews. Joe Dierckx, the only surviving member of the Great Dierckx Brothers strongman act, married his nurse, a sister of Knute Rockne. Oddly, nine years later, a passenger train moving through Aurora hit a herd of elephants being loaded onto another Hagenbeck-Wallace train; there was one fatality, a handler riding one of the elephants was thrown to the ground and crushed to death when the animal tumbled. The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus itself continued for years, was sold in 1929 to Ringling Bros., then, battered by the Depression, closed for good two decades after the Indiana wreck. [...]

The whole article has more information about the cemetery, Showman's Rest, where the victims were buried, and many other circus performers have been buried since.

Here is a photo from the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus, from 1917:

Gone, but not completely forgotten:

A Circus Tragedy and Showmen's Rest

Labels: circus, entertainment, history, movies

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Chicago Roadwork Site Could Hide Thousands of Long-Buried Bodies

newser.com

Chicago Roadwork Site Could Hide Thousands of Long-Buried Bodies

Oak Park Avenue was a burial site for the 'forgotten' a century ago

By Matt Cantor, Newser Staff
Posted May 3, 2015 9:43 AM CDT

(Newser) – Workers are preparing for improvements to a road on the Northwest Side of Chicago, and their work could lead to the unearthing of thousands of bodies, a cemetery researcher tells the *Chicago Tribune*. That's because the area of Oak Park Avenue in question was once a cemetery and now houses some 6,900 bodies, adds Barry Fleig. The area was a burial site from 1890 to 1912 for people whom Fleig describes as "forgotten in life." That includes the poor, unidentified crime victims, criminals themselves, and people who died in hospitals, the *Tribune* reports. Some 2,000 infants were buried in the area, Fleig tells DNAinfo.

"These were people—mothers and fathers and babies—not just bones," Fleig says. He is pushing for construction work to be very careful. "I know they have to redo Oak Park Avenue, and I can go along with that, but they have to be respectful and careful," he notes. A local official says they will be. Workers will employ ground-penetrating radar where they plan to dig. "'Everybody is aware that there is a possibility, maybe a probability of running into something," the official says. "And they're taking great pains to make sure they comply with all the state laws" addressing the relocation of bodies. "Also, it's just human decency." (March saw reports of a mass grave under a Paris supermarket.)

Cars drive by a pothole in a file photo. Construction in Chicago could lead to bodies buried around the turn of the 20th century.

Cocksure
May 3, 2015 8:36 PM CDT
Yea - cause we know how respectful the typical Chicagoan is. Kinda like a horse's ass.
brawne
May 3, 2015 7:48 PM CDT
The greatest gift I ever got in my life was my 17 year old son at my aunt's funeral saying--

yuck, wouldn't want to sink into a hole like that. Three years later when he was dead--I could toss his ashes off his favorite dock while people sang Sitting By the Dock of the Bay. Cause few twenty year old's leave detailed funeral plans. You are either dead or you are not. Bones, old graves? What--more important than the people who actually inhabited those so long dead now bodies? We could leave them there and in three thousand years some guy will dig them up and have a whole wing at the British Museum. Cause really--thousands of humans died to build those pyramids that mattered an awful lot at the time. Value the living. The dead are just fine.

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Chile UFO: Government confirm mysterious object is NOT 'made by man'

- 17:18, 16 April 2015
- By Kara O'Neill

Authorities revealed that they do not recognise the strange object which was captured hovering in the skies

Chilian miners spot this UFO and officials are stumped by the footage

A UFO that was sighted in Chile is 'not a known object made by man', according to the country's government.

Officials released the footage after completing a thorough investigation and have announced in a report that the mysterious object is not one they recognise.

They confirmed that the silver disc seen in the clip was approximately 10 metres in diameter and performed with vertical and horizontal movements that no other aircraft can do, according to Chilean media reports.

CEEFA

Footage: Video clips have been released which capture the UFO on camera

Scientists at the Centre for the Study of Anomalous Ariel Phenomena (CEFAA) confirmed: "It is not any weather phenomenon or any other known object made by man."

The footage was originally shot in April 2013 by miners who were working at the Collahuasi copper mine in north Chile.

Initially, they chose to keep the clip under wraps, for fear of being ridiculed, but later showed the clip to one of their bosses who insisted on sending copies to the CEFAA in February 2014.

Spotted: The mysterious object was seen by workers above a Chilean mine

CEEFA

The witnesses, who have chosen to remain anonymous, revealed that the object hovered in the sky for over an hour, and did not make any sound.

According to reports published in July 2014, the Chilean Meterological Office confirmed that the sky was clear on the day in question and now lenticular clouds (saucer shaped cloud formations) were recorded.

José Lay, director of international affairs at CEFAA also excluded the possibility that the UFO could be a drone.

CEEFA

Disk: The suspiciously shaped UFO is not 'made by man' according to reports

"People in that area are well aware of the existence of drones.

"Fishing companies use drones and [they] make much noise. This was definitely not a drone."

Officials also ruled out experimental aircraft, weather balloons, or other military drills that could explain the incident.

Earlier this week a 'shape changing' UFO was caught on camera in Columbia by a respected newspaper editor.

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'We shared our house with a poltergeist' The chilling tale of supernatural suburbia

express.co.uk

A CHILLING tale of supernatural goings-on in Seventies suburbia remains Britain's most baffl ing paranormal case

By Jane Warren
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Sat, Apr 25, 2015

Graham Morris

It appeared to be a normal, hectic evening in Enfield, north London.

Peggy Hodgson was tidying up her semidetached council house while her four children were upstairs getting ready for bed. As she busily scooped up their possessions, Peggy could hear her 11-year-old daughter Janet play fi ghting with her elder sister, Margaret, 13. Their brothers, Johnny, 10, and Billy, seven, were also upstairs.

But as the girls rolled around giggling on the bed, something peculiar happened. A chest of drawers began sliding slowly across the fl oor towards them. They said later it was as if a pair of powerful, but invisible, hands was dragging the oak furniture across the room towards the door.

Downstairs, Peggy, a single mother who had recently divorced from her children's father, could hear a shuffl ing noise as well as the children shouting and screaming.

She rushed up the staircase and burst into their room. When the girls told her the chest was moving she told them not to be so silly. And then she saw it with her own eyes.

She grabbed it and shoved it back against the wall. In terror she watched as it once again began sliding across the room, much faster this time, but this time she found it much harder to move. The terrifi ed woman grabbed her daughters, and fl ed the bedroom in panic.

Peggy later explained that it was as if there was an inhumanely strong force in the room.

These events on August 31 1977 were just the start. For more than a year a series of bizarre happenings took place in Peggy's house at 284 Green Street in what was to become one of the most intriguing and unsettling cases of haunting to occur in Britain.

Even now, nearly 40 years later, the suburban poltergeist that lived with them for a year continues to cast a shadow across the life of the family. “It lived off me,” says Janet Winter, as she is now called.

“Off my energy. Call me mad, or a prankster if you like. Those events did happen.

The poltergeist was with me – and I feel in a sense that he always will be. It wasn’t a normal childhood.”

Janet’s story has now been made into a three-part drama series called The Enfield Haunting.

Starring Timothy Spall and Juliet Stevenson, it recreates the events of autumn 1977 when Lego and toys flew across the girls’ rooms, pieces of furniture levitated, strange voices were heard, a fireplace was ripped from a wall and family members were dragged from their beds by an invisible of force.

Janet seemed to be the centre of the activity. Eerie photographs appear to show her being flung across her bedroom. “The most frightening thing was when a curtain wrapped itself around my neck by my bed,” says Janet. “There were times when it was fascinating to see, but when it was happening to you – like the levitation, the voices – it was frightening.”

There were cold breezes, graffiti, physical assaults, water appearing, and fires on oven gloves. There were even accounts of matches spontaneously lighting even though they had not been touched.

Mirrorpix

It was a case that held the nation spellbound, puzzling the police, psychics and even occult experts.

But many questioned whether it was all a hoax. And the case continues to baffle and disturb in equal measure.

Janet was convinced she was possessed by a former resident of the house in Green Street, a grumpy old man called Bill Wilkins who had died there many years before.

Speaking through her, a deep eerie voice – which can still be heard on audio tapes on the Internet today – said: “Just before I died, I went blind and then I had a haemorrhage and I fell asleep and I died in the chair in the corner downstairs.”

Bill Wilkins’ son Terry has confirmed that this was indeed how his father had died.

Listening to recordings of the ‘Bill’ persona being interviewed by scientists certainly suggests the possibility that Janet was indeed possessed by another entity. ‘Bill’ habitually makes jokes and exhibits a very nasty temper. He uses an adult vocabulary. His unsettling, rasping deep

voice certainly does not sound like one an 11-year-old girl could easily make or sustain, nor does the use of words such as “dematerialise” sound like something a child in the 1970s would say.

“It felt like it was behind me, not within me,” says Janet. “At one point my mouth was fi lled with water and taped up and the voice still came out.” A speech therapist called in to verify the voice fl ed from the house and refused to return.

MIRRORPIX

All this may sound to the sceptic quite absurd. But what makes the Enfi eld case so remarkable is that the events were exhaustively investigated by researchers, and witnessed by more than 30 independent observers.

When Peggy called in the police, WPC Carolyn Heeps recorded that: “A large armchair moved unassisted four feet across the fl oor.” She checked for wires but could fi nd no more the police could do as there was no evidence of a crime.

Desperate for an explanation and a way to stop the chilling events, Peggy contacted the Society for Psychical Research, an organisation that investigates paranormal happenings from a scientifi c perspective.

They sent two investigators, Guy Lyon Playfair and Maurice Grosse to examine the evidence. The society also engaged the services of a barrister, Mary Rose Barrington, to verify their fi ndings. After witnessing a vast array of inexplicable phenomena, the team were disturbed by the sound of Janet screaming. She was then dumped at the bottom of the stairs. OTHER recordings showed Janet being fl ung across the room from her bed. Sceptics said that she was simply jumping, but Janet has always denied this. “I felt cold hands. It was like a force that pulled me out of bed and up into the air,” she says.

One incident of levitation was seen by a lollipop lady in the street outside, as well as a passing baker. “The lady saw me spinning around and banging against the window. I thought I might actually break the window and go through it. All children fantasise about fl ying, but it wasn’t like that.

When you’re levitated with force you don’t know where you’re going to land,” says Janet.

Events culminated in the morning that Playfair heard a “tremendous vibrating noise”. To his total disbelief, he discovered that a heavy cast iron Victorian fi replace had been ripped out of the girls’ room. “It was so heavy even I couldn’t pick it up,” he recalls.

"The children couldn't have possibly ripped it out of the wall. We caught the incident on audio tape."

But Margaret and Janet have also claimed that they did fabricate "about two per cent" of the paranormal happenings in a bid to play tricks on the researchers. However, Playfair dismisses suggestions that the entire episode was a hoax. "You think an 11-year-old girl could have convinced me for over a year?" he laughs.

Janet's life since has not been an altogether happy one. Her brother Johnny died in 1981, aged 14, her mother in 2003, her 18-year-old son in his sleep, and her father recently. She left home at 16, married and moved to Essex. Today she prefers to stay out of the limelight, saying she doesn't want to rake up traumatic events, but she remains in touch with Playfair.

Janet remains sincere in her beliefs that she was indeed in touch with a supernatural entity. "I'm not sure the poltergeist was truly 'evil'," she says.

"It was almost as if it wanted to be part of our family. It didn't want to hurt us. It had died there and wanted to be at rest. The only way it could communicate was through me and my sister."

After Peggy died, Clare Bennett and her four sons moved into the house.

She reportedly said: "I didn't see anything but I felt uncomfortable. There was definitely some kind of presence in the house. I always felt like somebody was looking at me."

Bennett moved out after just two months. The house is currently occupied by a family who do not wish to be named.

? The Enfield Haunting, Sky Living, 9pm, May 3

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China may build rail tunnel under Mount Everest, state media reports

Haroon Siddique and Jason Burke in Delhi
Thursday 9 April 2015 Last modified on Thursday 9 April 2015 theguardian.com

China is considering extending a railway line linking the country to Nepal via a tunnel under Mount Everest, according to Chinese state media.

The proposal is the latest in a series of ambitious rail schemes Beijing is reportedly examining. It comes amid scepticism about whether some of the projects will ever get off the ground and at a time of a growing Chinese presence in Nepal, which has caused some concern in rival regional power India.

The Qinghai-Tibet railway already links the rest of China with the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, and beyond, and an extension running as far as the international border is already being planned "at Nepal's request", the China Daily quoted a railway expert at the Chinese Academy of Engineering as saying.

The project is expected to be completed by 2020, the newspaper cited a Tibetan official as saying. Extending the line would potentially forge a crucial link between China and the huge markets of India. It was raised by the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, on a visit to Kathmandu in December, according to Nepalese reports.

"The line will probably have to go through Qomolangma so that workers may have to dig some very long tunnels," railway expert Wang Mengshu told the China Daily, referring to Mount Everest by its Tibetan name.

Owing to the challenging Himalayan terrain, with its remarkable changes in elevation, trains on any line to Kathmandu would probably have a maximum speed of 75mph (120km/h), he added.

Last year, another state-run newspaper, the Beijing Times, reported that China was considering building a high-speed railway line to the US that would run for 8,080 miles, about 1,865 miles further than the Trans-Siberian railway. It would also include about 125 miles of undersea tunnel, which would be the world's longest, crossing the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska.

The Times also listed another three international high-speed rail projects that are in various stages of planning and development.

One would run from London via Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, Kiev and Moscow, where it would split into two routes, one of which would run to China through Kazakhstan and the other through eastern Siberia. Another would begin in the far-western Chinese city of Urumqi and then run through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey to Germany, and the last would begin in the south-west city of Kunming and end in Singapore.

It was unclear to what extent China had consulted any of the other countries whose consent

would be required, although it was announced in August that Thailand's military junta had approved a $23bn (£13.6bn) transport project that would see two high-speed railways link up directly with Kunming, via Laos, by 2021. The line would form part of the planned route to Singapore, which would also run through Malaysia.

The growing Chinese presence in Nepal goes beyond roads and railways, with massive hydroelectric projects, airports and a pilgrimage centre at Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, all slated to receive substantial funding from Beijing.

The number of tourists from China is also rising rapidly. Though overall tourist arrivals by air declined in 2014, visitors from China grew by nearly 20% to more than 71,107. More flight connections are also planned.

Chinese-made goods flood the markets of Kathmandu and Pokhara, the western Nepalese city, and new language schools teaching Mandarin – generously subsidised by Beijing – are increasingly popular.

Indian analysts say Beijing's influence is a concern but often exaggerated.

"The Chinese are giving it a hard try but the ties with India are very strong," said G Parthasarathy, a retired senior Indian diplomat and commentator. "There's a natural geography and history to our relationship [with Nepal]. Yes, they can build a few roads but they can't employ five million Nepalese. And how many Nepalis are migrating to China? Then there are affinities and culture too."

The rivalry between the two Asian powers is intense, however, with India scoring some successes recently in pushing back against Beijing's efforts to extend Chinese influence into areas such as Sri Lanka, traditionally seen as Delhi's backyard. A change of government in Sri Lanka has led to megaprojects funded by Chinese loans and built by Chinese companies being shelved.

But Indian strategists are most worried about Bejing's links with India's western neighbour.

"We are much more concerned about the Chinese relationship with Pakistan, than with Nepal," said Parthasarathy.

Chinese plans to expand the rail network in Tibet have come under criticism from rights groups including the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), which has warned of the project's "dangerous implications for regional security and the fragile ecosystem of the world's highest and largest plateau".

"The Chinese government's claim that rail expansion on the plateau simply benefits tourism and lifts Tibetans out of poverty does not hold up to scrutiny and cannot be taken at face value," the ICT president, Matteo Mecacci, said last year.

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China to crack down on exotic dancers at village funerals

yahoo.com

China to crack down on exotic dancers at village funerals

BEIJING (Reuters) - China will crack down on strippers who perform at rural funerals, the Ministry of Culture said on Thursday, taking aim at performances it described as illegal and which corrupt "social morals".

State media have said burlesque shows at some funerals aim to draw more mourners and show off the family's wealth, in a practice that is infrequent, although gaining in popularity.

In a notice on its website, the ministry called for a "black list" of people and workplaces that engage in such shows.

It singled out a group of burlesque dancers, the Red Rose Song and Dance Troupe, who did a strip-tease after the small-town funeral of an elderly person in the northern province of Hebei in February.

The group took off their clothes after performing a traditional song-and-dance routine, the ministry said.

One leader of Red Rose, surnamed Li, was punished with 15 days in detention and a fine of 70,000 yuan ($11,300) after law enforcement officials intervened.

(Reporting by Megha Rajagopalan; Editing by Clarence Fernandez)

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Cremation simulation: Theme park in China offers 'death ride'

upi.com

"It was horrifying," one rider said of the attraction, which is designed to give "an authentic experience of burning."

By Doug G. Ware | May 9, 2015 at 5:58 PM

The Window of the World theme park in China uses hot air and lights to simulate cremation and give visitors "an authentic experience of burning." Photo by fluke samed/Shutterstock

SHENZHEN, China, May 9 (UPI) -- Forget about thrill rides. How about a shrill ride?

The Window of the World theme park in China has a new attraction that some are just dying to ride.

It's called Samadhi: 4D Experience of Death, and it's designed to give riders the sensation of being dead, cremated, and reborn.

First, the visitor goes on a journey through a "morgue." Next, they are placed in a casket and put on a conveyor belt for "cremation" -- which is simulated by a sudden blast of hot air over the rider to simulate flames. The air reaches temperatures up to 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

The attraction also uses flashes of light to give the rider "an authentic experience of burning."

Finally, an image of a womb is projected onto the ceiling and riders must crawl until they reach a white, padded room -- where they are "reborn."

Sound fun?

The ride's creators went to great lengths to make the experience as accurate as possible by visiting a real crematorium and lying inside the incinerator.

Window of the World is a cultural theme park instead of a regular amusement park. Other attractions featured there include replicas of France's Eiffel Tower and its Arc de Triomphe.

When many riders reach the end of the experience they are said to be drenched in sweat. Whether that's a result of the heat -- or being scared to death, is uncertain.

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Thursday 09 April 2015

Chinese man ignores dying hit-and-run victim - later finds out it is his mother

A man who did not stop to help a mortally wounded elderly woman on the side of a road in China finds out the tragic truth too late

Mr Zhang, drove past an injured woman who turned out to be his mother
Mr Zhang, drove past an injured woman who turned out to be his mother
Photo: news.qq.com *Photo: news.qq.com*

A man who drove past a fatally injured woman on the side of the road in **China** found out later that she was his mother.

The man, surnamed Zhang from Nanling county in the eastern province of Anhui, was driving to meet his mother when he passed a bloodied elderly woman lying in the road. After arriving at his mother's house and realising she was out, he rushed back to the scene, only to discover the terrible truth.

Mr Zhang called an ambulance but his mother died from her injuries on the way to the hospital. Police later found a driver who admitted to the hit-and-run.

"My car does not have a dashboard recorder, so I didn't stop," Mr Zhang said, according to Anhui Business Daily.

Drivers or passersby in China are hesitant about helping strangers in need.

In recent years there have been reports of money being extorted from the "good Samaritans" by the very people they try to assist.

With limited government health insurance, those unfortunate enough to get into accidents can face medical bills beyond their means.

Last year **Wu Weiqing killed himself after the family of an injured elderly man** he stopped to help accused him of knocking down the pensioner and demanded Mr Wu foot the bill.

Such incidents provoke soul-searching among internet users. Many believe China is beset by rampant materialism and has lost its moral foundations.

In response to Mr Zhang's tragic story, one microblog user, Wuyuedingxiangmu, said on Sina

Weibo: “We can’t be too indifferent, for helping others equals helping ourselves. We must punish swindlers harshly, otherwise it only strengthens the indifference.”

To encourage citizens to help strangers, the city of Shenzhen in southern China took out the country’s first “Good Samaritan” law in 2013. It puts the burden of proof on the person who was injured and harshly punishes those found to make false claims of injury.

There were calls for such a law to be introduced countrywide after a gruelling and now infamous case in 2011 in which 18 people passed **toddler Wang Yue as she lay in the street** after **being hit by a car**.

Although someone eventually stopped to help, the two-year-old girl died of her injuries.

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City Hall ghost story

WENDY RUDERMAN, Daily News Staff Writer rudermw@phillynews.com , 215-854-5924
20150409

philly.com

Olde City Paranormal members Glenn Orwan (left) and George Feinstein listen for clues in the City Hall tower during a recent mission. (ELIZABETH ROBERTSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Olde City Paranormal members Glenn Orwan (left) and George Feinstein listen for clues in the City Hall tower during a recent mission. (ELIZABETH ROBERTSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Gallery: City Hall ghost story

Posted: Thursday, April 9, 2015, 12:16 AM

THE LITTLE GIRL is a frequent visitor to the second floor of City Hall. She slips - unseen - past the police officers outside Mayor Nutter's office. She secrets herself within a majestic room called Conversation Hall. She is not supposed to be there, unsupervised, at all hours of the night.

Officer George Feinstein, part of the mayor's security detail, acknowledges that he's never actually seen the girl. But twice he's heard her giggle while making his second-floor rounds. He's also heard her sigh, breezily, as he chitchatted with some City Hall visitors.

"It was like we were boring," Feinstein said.

On a cold, starry Saturday night last month, as a sliver of moon glowed above Billy Penn's hat, Feinstein and a group of fellow ghost hunters, including two other Philadelphia police officers, set out to find the girl.

The Nutter administration agreed to open City Hall to Feinstein's group, called Olde City Paranormal, and to a *Daily News* reporter and photographer (after signing a waiver agreeing that the city could not be held liable for any injuries).

The night, which began at 8 o'clock, was the first official ghost hunt to be held within the 114-year-old limestone French Second Empire headquarters of Philadelphia government.

Feinstein, who has patrolled City Hall for seven years, was determined to learn more about the girl. How did she die? When did she die? Why did she haunt Conversation Hall?

Was it because the room is fit for a princess? High golden ceilings, plum-colored drapes, rose-hued marble columns and a spectacular bronze chandelier, perfect for any girl to twirl endlessly beneath.

The group sat expectantly within the darkened room about 10:30 p.m. Feinstein, 48, the kind of cop you want to confide in, started to talk to the girl.

"My name is George," he said. "You know me. I've been in and out of this room tons of times. Why don't you say 'hi' like you did? We're not here to hurt you. We just want to make contact with you, if that's possible. Can you tell us your name?"

Silence.

"Do you know what year you died? You may not want to talk. Maybe you can hit something. Bang a wall

or move a chair," Feinstein said.

The only noise was the squeal of bus wheels and the hum of traffic circling City Hall.

"Do you know where your mom and dad are?"

Feinstein, the father of two kids, posed the same questions any cop would ask a girl found wandering without her parents.

The group left the room without answers.

Murderers and suicides

Could the girl have been the victim of one of the many killers whose murder trials were held inside City Hall before the Criminal Justice Center opened in 1994?

Although Herman W. Mudgett, alias H.H. Holmes - dubbed "America's first serial killer" - is largely associated with a Chicago-area "murder castle," he was convicted and hanged in Philadelphia.

He tortured and killed at least 27 people, including children, between 1886 and 1894. He went on trial here for the murder of Benjamin Pietzel, whose body was found inside a home on Callowhill Street near 13th. A Philadelphia detective assigned to the case discovered the decomposed bodies of Pietzel's daughters, Alice, 15, and Nellie, 11, buried in a cellar within a house that Holmes had rented in Toronto.

"The widespread publicity given this sensational case attracted a great throng of people to the corridors of City Hall," noted an October 1895 article in the *New York Times*. Holmes was hanged at Moyamensing Prison at 10th and Reed streets in 1896.

The *Inquirer*, which paid $7,500 for his written confession, described Holmes in a headline as "The Most Fearful and Horrible Murderer Ever Known in the Annals of Crime."

There are plenty of believers who work in City Hall. One city employee, who declined to be named, said he's heard the little girl talking to herself and laughing. When asked to pinpoint her age, the employee said, "I don't know - old enough to scare the s--- out of you."

Center Square hangings

Some late-night cleaning staffers say they dread working on the south side of City Hall.

"After it gets dark, nobody likes that side of City Hall," a janitor confided. "If they have to work that side, they do it before it gets dark. There are some things you just can't explain. You hear noises."

The next stop on the ghost hunt was the south side of City Hall, fourth floor.

"Orphan's Court is on this floor," Feinstein explained. "We are going down to the south end. That's where there are a lot of shadows, a lot of things going on. It's a very active hallway. That's on any floor, on the south end."

Long before the construction of City Hall began in 1871, the south side of "Center Square" was, from 1788 to 1799, the common hanging-ground of the city and county.

If McCormick & Schmick's had existed then, diners would have been able to cut into a juicy steak while watching public hangings.

"Newspapers of the day related the bare facts of a public execution and, in Philadelphia, many were executed with no news story whatsoever," Negley Teeters wrote in his book, *Scaffold and Chair*.

According to an Oct. 13, 1789, article in the *Daily Packet*, five "wheelbarrow men" went to their deaths at the gallows. "The behavior of these unhappy men appeared penitent."

They were called wheelbarrow men because criminals housed at the Walnut Street Prison were allowed out during the day to clean the city's streets, carting away filth in wheelbarrows, "doomed to labor with a chain and iron-ball attached to their person," according to *The Book of Murders*, which recounts horrific murders from the American Revolution to 1823.

The book, published in 1858, details how the five men escaped from prison one evening, stopped to pick up the "evil" wife of one of them, named "Logan," and set out to rob the "money-saving" McFarland brothers who lived in a house near 13th and Market. The men forced their way in and bludgeoned John McFarland with an iron handle from a water pump.

The wounded McFarland tried to escape, leaving a trail of bloody handprints on the wall. Logan's wife yelled, "I'll finish him!" She then grabbed his head and "battered his brains against the wall, in spite of his groans." Logan's wife was not hanged because she was pregnant and "her eventual fate is merged in obscurity," the book notes.

Basement king

Just before midnight, Feinstein and his group sat silent on the fourth floor, straining to hear or see something.

"If you listen and look, you will probably catch footsteps and see shadows," Feinstein said. "Sometimes you'll see a head peer out of the darkness of a doorway."

Long moments of silence. Then something that sounded like a deep exhale or ghastly hiss. The group erupted in hushed excitement: "Did you hear that?" "What was that?" "It sounded like a growl."

Feinstein called out, "Anybody here with us?"

Moments later, an emergency-exit light at the end of the hallway went out. "Whoa, did you see that? The light went out," Feinstein said.

At the end of the hallway, Feinstein pointed out what appeared to be a dark shape moving about.

"Right down the end. By the men's bathroom. Just keep watching. To the right of the doorway," he said.

Joe Brasky, a building superintendent who joined the ghost hunt, is a bit of a doubter, but even he seemed uncertain.

"My eyes are seeing s---. I think there is stuff moving down there right now," Brasky said, lying on his stomach, sniper-style, on the cool hallway floor.

Earlier in the evening, Brasky, 38, sheepishly talked about the time he got a creepy feeling while at work.

"Is there a possibility that things are in here? Yes. But when you are working overnight and you're here 18 to 20 hours, you start to see stuff anyway," Brasky said. "There are times you walk around here and you feel like something is there, walking with you. Just recently my hair stood up on the back of my head when I was walking through the hallway. Why? I don't know."

Maybe the "something" walking with Brasky was Joseph Kubichek, a longtime City Hall maintenance worker who died in 2006. Kubichek had secretly lived in the building's basement. When city officials found out, they evicted him. He died after he left the job at age 68.

"He didn't die in here, but this was his home really for years," Brasky said.

Brasky, who calls himself "King of the Basement" and has worked in City Hall for about nine years, said he feels an emotional attachment to the building.

"I'm always here. I do everything for the building. My ghost will probably be here after I die," said Brasky, letting out a chalky smoker's laugh.

"My ghost is going to Hawaii," Feinstein joked.

A death scene

Much blood was spilled in the making of City Hall - and in the years since. Construction went on for 30 years. During that time, 19 men died in accidents while foisting bricks, marble and limestone to build the 511-foot-tall structure, completed in 1901.

"They say limestone, it's kind of like a conductor to where it absorbs energy," said Officer John Levy, who co-founded Olde City Paranormal. Levy, who joined the ghost hunt, said that energy can create "a tape-recording effect," a haunt that's "not intelligent," but more like a memory or watching a movie.

"It's something that occurs over and over again. It's the same exact thing. It will have no interaction with you," Levy said.

Window washing was a particularly perilous job at City Hall. Some newspaper accounts of those accidents were vivid, like this one from a May 1934 *Evening Bulletin*: "His body twisted in the air in view of many passersby, and it fell into the moat on the outside of the building. The body was badly crushed. In a minute, a crowd of nearly 1,000 congregated and police details were called to force them away."

A handful of City Hall employees and visitors killed themselves by jumping out windows on the upper floors or pitching themselves over the ornate railings of the building's spiral staircases. Newspapers of the 1920s and '30s characterized these suicides as "nervous breakdowns."

One man who killed himself took a secret to his death. In June 1922, a man named Illie Marion showed up at the Police Detective Bureau, then located on the fifth floor of City Hall. "He wanted to tell about a horrible murder," according to a *Bulletin* article.

A police clerk showed Marion, a 36-year-old woodworker from Ambler, to a small interview room. When a detective walked in, Marion grew frantic and yelled: "They are going to kill me."

Marion rushed past the detective and ran to a window. He crawled out and gripped on to the window frame, his feet perched on the sill. Every time police tried to grab him, Marion screamed, "Stand back - don't come near me or I will let go."

Finally, he released his grip and "with a shout that could be heard in all parts of the building, plunged down. A number of women who had watched the man screamed and fainted," the article states.

At the time, a police lieutenant said he had met Marion a few days before his death at a saloon at Front and Cambria streets. Marion told him that he had information about the murders of John Braneu, 49, and his teenage son, Peter. They were found brutally beaten with "some heavy instrument" inside their home at 625 N. American St. on Sept. 15, 1921.

Marion said he was being "framed up" for the murders and agreed to meet the lieutenant for an interview at City Hall.

The murders remain unsolved.

Abandoned staircase

Some mysteries, cemented within City Hall's rich history, likely will never be resolved.

Glenn Orwan, 53, another member of Olde City Paranormal, said he heard "a disembodied voice" while roaming City Hall a few years ago during what he characterized as an "unofficial" ghost hunt.

Orwan said he and others in his group heard the voice while standing atop an abandoned stairwell that ends inside a storage room on the seventh floor, the location of the former prisoner holding cell.

"One of the best disembodied voices that I've ever heard, that was recorded, came from here," Orwan said. "We couldn't make out what it said. It was like, 'Blah-blaw.' I said, 'What the hell was that? Did everybody hear that?' "

On last month's ghost hunt, Orwan led the *Daily News* to the spot where he heard the voice. The group climbed an abandoned metal staircase, hidden within a south turret of City Hall. The steps were littered with old newspapers, empty cigarette packs, chunks of cinderblock and mounds of sawdust.

Long ago, prison guards led defendants awaiting trial up these stairs to the cell. Later, prisoners arrived via an elevator. Some of the city's most heinous criminals, including Gary Heidnik, traveled this route. Heidnik killed two women and tortured and raped four others in a dungeon-like basement of his North Philadelphia home.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the holding cell was a source of scandal. Each day, some 160 prisoners sat crammed, shoulder-to-shoulder, on benches in a cell designed to hold 90. Some took off their shirts as summer temperatures reached 104 degrees. They passed around an aluminum cup filled with water and ate rancid bologna sandwiches. A judge called the conditions "barbaric."

At 9 p.m., the ghost-hunt group, winded from climbing the stairs, reached a storage room with creaky wooden floors. Here, there's a door that leads to the old prison cell. The group stood in the hot, sooty room and listened for the spirit's voice. None came.

Orwan said the voice he had heard belonged to a male. Although the group couldn't discern the spirit's words, Orwan said they later listened to the recording and the words were chilling.

"When we played the recording back, it was crystal clear and it said, 'Can I come out now?' "

On Twitter: @wendyruderman

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Clowns Brawl With Protesters Under Circus Big Top

By Michael Larkin
Updated at 11:08 AM PDT on Saturday, Apr 18, 2015

nbclosangeles.com

Clowns brawled with animal rights protesters under a circus big top in San Bernardino Friday night, witnesses say.

Hundreds of spectators watched the fight break out when workers allegedly tried to stop the activists from forcing their way inside after the Ramos Bros. Circus show began.

Two protestors were arrested following the melee, while two circus employees were injured when the fight broke out at 8:08 p.m., according to a San Bernardino Police Department spokesman.

Ringmaster Oliver Ramos claimed his lip was split after he was hit on the face with his megaphone in trying to keep protestors outside.

"All of a sudden when I turned around one of them jumped on top of my uncle - he's over 68-years-old - and they started beating on him and I reacted," Ramos said. "When I pulled them off they hit me with a megaphone in the face and all these ladies started scratching me on the face."

However protester Nicholas Shaw-McMinn claimed they were protesting non-violently, and that protesters were the ones attacked by the circus workers.

"Employees locked us on the property and wouldn't let us leave. They assaulted... multiple protestors, some with weapons," Shaw-McMinn said.

He also claimed one of the workers placed him in a choke hold during the clash.

The activists, who said they are members of the Direct Action Everywhere group, provided video which showed them protesting outside the big top before the melee.

The Ramos Bros. Circus website boasts that the show features "animals from all over the world," showing images of lamas, camels and horses.

Ramos said he does not mind activists protesting on the street but wants them to stay off the property where the circus is performing. He also believes something has to be done to prevent further clashes occurring

"These people are just crazy fanatics... it has to stop. These people are getting out of hand," Ramos said.

However it seems they will not be staying away, as more than 100 protesters are expected to show up for more demonstrations taking place Saturday.

The "Protest Ramos Bros. Circus" Facebook page says: "Traveling animal acts perpetuate animal cruelty, inhumane care, public safety hazards and distorted images of wildlife.

"As compassionate animal lovers we must stop animal entertainment and extend our love to all animals. Animals are not our (sic) to use, they are not our property; they are beings that desire the same freedoms as us."

It also claims circus animals are trained using methods such as whipping, hitting, poking, and shocking with electrical prods.

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CNN Reporter Attacked by Ghost Live On Air In Haunted House Report [Video]

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Odd News Posted: April 17, 2015

CNN Reporter Attacked by Ghost Live On Air In Haunted House Report [Video]

A CNN reporter and crew member were allegedly attacked by an unseen presence last summer when they were filming a live segment about a haunted house in Hanover, Pennsylvania.

According to reporter Katie Kyros, she and her team were allegedly scratched and pushed down the stairs while conducting an interview with homeowner DeAnna Simpson.

Simpson says the apparitions have been haunting her and her family shortly after they moved in seven years ago. Not only attacking family members and pets, the ghostly entities would also fill the nights with eerie voices and blood-chilling shrieks.

At one point during the interview, photojournalist Nick Petrillo started feeling a burning sensation on his hand, and when he checked it out, there were scratches on his wrist, FOX43 reports.

> "[That's] because you're telling the story," Simpson insisted before putting holy water on him. "Because you're putting it out there, because they don't want– that is there, I'm just telling you, right now that is their way of a warning."

Kyros later divulged that she too was assaulted – admitting that she was "touched and pinched" during the interview.

"Simpson says it has happened to her, her husband, and her friends many times before," she stated.

The news crew also saw strange orbs around the house and witnessed an unseen force close a door to prove its presence.

Unable to move because they'd put everything they had into buying the house, Simpson and

her husband have to continue to tolerate their unwanted house guests.

"We put everything into this house," said Simpson. "And we do want to move, but we would have to list it at such a price where we could recoup what we put in."

According to FOX43, Simpson has documented evidence of the entities' presence, including photos and audio recordings of strange voices, barking dogs, and laughing children who were not in the house at the time.

> "Five plus," says Simpson of the number of ghosts in her house. "I have some here that are protecting me, some women here that are protecting me, but the majority are bad, dark forces, inhuman."

The chilling video has once again been making its way around the web. And though Simpson has invited priests, paranormal investigators, and mediums to help get rid of the evil spirits, to this day the house is still haunted.

[Image via CNN]

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An entire Connecticut ghost town is back on the market for $2.4 million after the winning bidder disappeared

Dennis Green Apr. 7, 2015, 11:57 AM 14,941
Apr. 7, 2015, 11:57 AM
businessinsider.com

An entire Connecticut ghost town is back on the market for $2.4 million after the winning bidder disappeared

Many of the buildings date back to the 1800s.

Auction.com

The village of Johnsonville, Connecticut is back on the market for $2.4 million after a potential deal fell through and the buyer disappeared, according to Curbed.

Though the bidder won the property's auction for $1.9 million, the deal wasn't able to close for an unspecified reason, according to The Hartford Courant.

Johnsonville has been a theme park, a textile mill, a movie set, and a ghost town.

Johnsonville's founding dates back to the 1830s, when it was a mill town for the twine industry in Connecticut. Fast forward to 1960, when, according to Curbed, aerospace millionaire Ray Schmitt bought up all the buildings in town. He also brought his own buildings to Johnsonville, including a Victorian-era stable and a chapel from Massachusetts, opening a quaint theme park.

By 1994, after a fight with local officials and a few fires, the park closed. Save for the movie "Freedom" being filmed there as well as a Billy Joel music video, the 62 acres have been left abandoned ever since.

A hotel developer did purchase the property in 2008, and tried to unload it in 2013 for $2.9 million.

Many of the original buildings from the 1800s are still standing, though they are in terrible shape.

The structures, though dilapidated, feature authentic and original colonial and Victorian design.

Fires destroyed some of the original structures, but at least eight still remain on the property.

A Victorian-style stable is one of the buildings Schmitt brought to Johnsonville.

Auction.com

Auction.com

Auction.com

The village has been abandoned since the 1990s, serving as a backdrop for movies and music videos.

The Johnson Millpond lies right next to the town, where in 1966 Schmitt kept a steamboat as a theme park attraction.

The 1800s-era general store also still stands in the middle of town.

The Emory Johnson Homestead is the jewel of the property, chock full of original Victorian details.

SirZueson Apr 7, 11:07 PM said:
For an entire town why is the price so low? $2.4 million?
Speculatoron Apr 8, 3:47 AM said:
@SirZues
From the article: "Save for the movie "Freedom" being filmed there as well as a Billy Joel music video, the 62 acres have been left abandoned ever since [1994]."

If minimal maintenance has been done since 1994, the village's buildings (it sounds as if there are about 10) are going to be in poor shape. If a buyer is going to tear the buildings down (which may or may not be permitted because they're historic), $2.4 million is just buying 62 acres. If a buyer is going to restore the buildings, that's probably going to cost several millions more. $2.4 million doesn't necessarily sound like a bargain.

Auction.com

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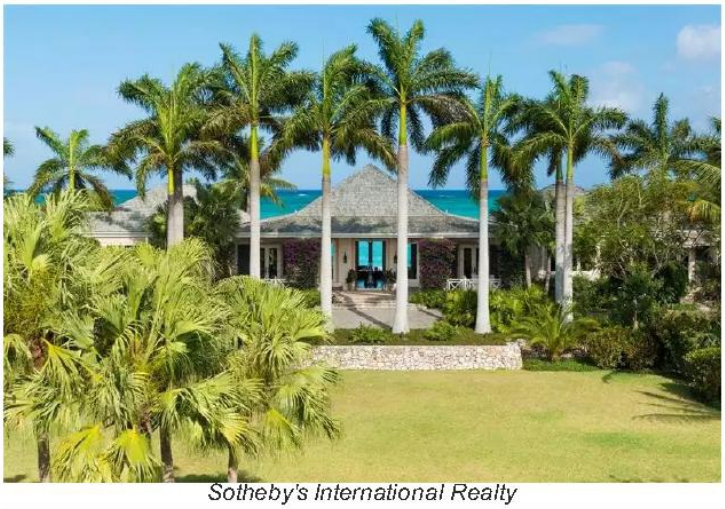

Sotheby's International Realty

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Convicted Hickory Street killer: 'I want to be a vampire'

suntimes.com

Posted: 05/05/2015, 12:22pm | Jordan Owen

Joshua Miner | Will County Sheriff's Office

Convicted Hickory Street murderer Joshua Miner, serving a life sentence for killing two men in Joliet in 2013, gave a chilling video interview to Joliet Patch that was posted online Tuesday.

"I split my tongue . . . I had a tongue piercing, and then I put a string through it, and then I took the string and I tightened it, and I started sawing, pulling it, and sawing it, and then . . . it split," Miner tells Patch reporter Joseph Hosey in the video, posted online Tuesday.

The video was recorded by Patch at the maximum security Menard Correctional Center, where Miner, 26, is serving his sentence. He was convicted in November 2014 of the murders of 22-year-olds Eric Glover and Terrance Rankins in January 2013.

His ex-girlfriend, Alisa Massaro, pleaded guilty to robbery and concealing a homicide, and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Another defendant, Bethany McKee, was also sentenced to life. The fourth person charged, Adam Landerman, has yet to stand trial.

Miner goes on to say that for his "golden birthday" on June 30, he wanted to become a "freak" and transform into a vampire. He also wanted to get "fangs" and pin his ears like a bat as part of his devotion to the band Insane Clown Posse.

"I'm a walking oxymoron. I feel, but I don't feel. I see things, but I don't care about them. I'd literally take the shirt off my back to help somebody, but then I'd turn around and I'll take another person's shirt off their back. I don't care," Miner said.

"I'm a good person. . . . I got like a good heart, but I got a bad soul."

Miner concludes the video by saying, "I don't really have much of a conscience. It's just . . . when I turn 30, I want to be a vampire. I want to be a clown."

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Cops: Maine man who fled arrest found hiding 50 feet up tree

yahoo.com

11 hours ago

GRAY, Maine (AP) — Police say a man they were tracking after he took off following a traffic stop was found hiding 50 feet up in a tree.

The Portland Press Herald reports (http://bit.ly/1Eqgi9p) authorities in Windham County caught 30-year old Weston Wing on Wednesday morning after flagging him down for driving over the speed limit. Wing refused to pull over, crashed near an intersection on Route 115 and then ran into the woods.

A police dog located Wing, who authorities say was in the branches of a tree.

Wing faces charges of running from police and driving with a suspended license. A lieutenant from Windham County tells the newspaper Wing has had about 20 license suspensions over the past decade.

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Great, five more mouths to feed! Cow in India has ten-lipped calf

08:02 EST, 23 April 2015 dailymail.co.uk

- **Bizarre-looking creature can drink through two of his five mouths**
- **Local people in Narnaul are flocking to see him and pray at his hooves**
- **The calf, called Nandi, is thought to have the most mouths of any bovine**

By Helen Moss For Mailonline

Talk about gobby! This little fellow has been born with FIVE mouths - believed to be the most ever seen on a calf.

The strange-looking baby opens all ten lips when he is sucking at his mother's udders. But he can only take in milk through two of his mouths.

He is being fed three times a day at the dairy farm where he was born, in Narnaul, northern India.

On everyone's lips: This calf in northern India has five mouths and is attracting a stream of human visitors

Normal body: From the neck down the baby, who has been called Nandi, looks like any other calf

Dinner time: Nandi sucks from his mother's udders with one of his mouths. She feeds him three times a day

Shocked locals have called the calf Nandi - a nickname for Lord Krishna. It can also mean 'one who pleases others'.

In India's Hindu culture, cows are revered as a symbol of life. Nandi is attracting a constant stream of visitors wanting to celebrate him.

Many of them kneel before him to pray and touch his hooves.

Local vet Sukhbir Singh said that despite Nandi's appearance, he is healthy and thriving. But the calf's two eyes are positioned in such a way on his distorted head that he can only see to his sides and can't look in front of him. One eye is blue and the other black.

Meet the incredible calf born with FIVE mouths in India

Other strange-looking bovine have been recorded in recent years, including a buffalo with three mouths and three eyes that was in in 2009, also in northern India, in 2009.

Last month a bull with two faces - one on top the other - was sold to an abattoir in Queensland, Australia.

The 440kg animal fetched around £300 in the auction at Mareeba Livestock Yard.

Celebrating him: Local schoolchildren kneel and pray at Nandi's feet. Cows are revered in the Hindu faith

Garlanded: Wreaths such as those around the calf's neck are traditionally used in India during worship

Baby teeth: One of Nandi's mouths is clearly bigger than the others, which hang around his face

Two years ago, an American farm revealed it had a calf with two heads but only one brain.

Vets said the little heifer, in Whiting, Vermont, was meant to be a twin but the egg did not separate properly in the womb.

Each head mimicked the other, meaning when she was feeding with one of her mouths, her other mouth was sucking too.

Two-faced: This 440kg bull, which has faces on top of each other, was sold to an abattoir last month

Double-headed: The female calf born that was born in Whiting, Vermont, two years ago

Tired out: Both her mouths sucked at the same time because they were operated by a single brain

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Criminal house guest faked haunting and owners believed itdoubtfulnews.com

by idoubtit • April 16, 2015

Take a look at this piece and notice that the family who was duped appears to be overly superstitious in that they believed that the ghost was really a threat. The "ghost" caused $30,000 in damage and they paid this joker, Jason Sumey, to get rid of it.

House guest claimed Fall City home was 'haunted,' took $64K to rid it of spirits.

> Investigators believe the 38-year old Sumey was responsible for the more than $30,000 in damage, which started shortly after Sumey moved into the Fall City home last August to live with the homeowners' granddaughter.
>
> Chen Saeteurn said she didn't know her granddaughter's boyfriend was in trouble with the law until he was arrested in February. The family members also didn't know their house guest's real name. "We didn't know," Saeteurn told KIRO 7's Amy Clancy. "We thought he was a good guy."

They didn't know he had a criminal record and didn't think that his intent was really to get his hands on their money. He was not a good guy at all. He used the name "Steven Davidson" because he was wanted by police for failing to register as a sex offender. Sumey is accused of breaking windows, denting vehicles and generally creating a mess that was blamed on bad spirits. Then he charged the family to get rid of the spirits. The police spokesperson admits he took advantage of the family's belief system. They are of Southeast Asian decent. The article ends with the homeowner saying the "bad spirits" went with him. It's unclear what they really believed…

Tip: Paul Cropper

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Dad-of-four pushes out parasitic twin though belly button Plumber 'gives birth' to identical twin after having pains in his stomach

mirror.co.uk

- 23:21, 24 April 2015
- By Louise Sassoon

Gavin Hyatt keeps his brother in a jar and calls him "little Gav"

A plumber gave birth to his parasitic twin after it pushed its way though his stomach.

Gary Hyatt, 30, had been examined by a number of medics who thought the lump by his belly button could be a cyst or an in-growing hair.

The father-of-four was due to have an operation to remove it which was cancelled at the last minute.

But after experiencing sharp stabbing pains he was shocked to find he had given birth to his identical twin through his belly button.

Mr Hyatt, a former firefighter , from Witney, Oxfordshire, said: "I feel absolutely fine now but it has not sunk in yet that I could have had a twin brother.

"I have him in a jar at home and I call him little Gav. I haven't told many people. I feel like a bit of a freak."

As the lump protruded Mr Hyatt drove himself to his local GP where his doctor witnessed the strange event.

His GP Dr Joe Santos, told The Sun "It was like something from Alien. I didn't believe Gavin when he said something was coming out of his belly button until I saw him."

The 4cm long parasitic twin had been in Mr Hyatt's body since he was born. Medics think it was reabsorbed when it died in the womb early in their mother's pregnancy.

It comes after surgeons in America removed a similar parasitic growth from the brain of PhD student Yamini Karanam 26.

The twin had hair bone and teeth and was taken out from deep in her brain after she suffered years of bad health.

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D.A.R.E. gets duped by anti-pot satire

By Christopher Ingraham
May 4

washingtonpost.com

washingtonpost.com © 1996-2015 The Washington Post

Fake news story published on the website of D.A.R.E. on March 30.

"Marijuana candies, sold on the street as 'Uncle Tweety's Chewy Flipper' and 'Gummy Satans' are taking the country by storm." That's the breathless opening sentence of a news story posted on the Web site of D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the infamous anti-drug organization that sends police into schools to teach kids about the dangers of drug use.

After I called to inquire about it, D.A.R.E. removed the story immediately without commenting. But it's been preserved at the Internet Archive, and I've screenshotted it in full below. "It is sad that in a country as developed as America, such third world drugs such as marijuana are allowed to exist," the story's anonymous author wrote. "Children are being addicted to marijuana. I knew this day would come, when a liberal president allowed a state to legally sell Marijuana Flintstone Vitamins to children."

"Marijuana. It is one of the most dangerous drugs on Earth," the author concludes ominously. "For every one joint of marijuana, four teenagers become burdened with pregnancy."

Shocking, no? The people at D.A.R.E. certainly thought so, enough that they reposted the entire story, titled "Edible Marijuana Candies Kill 9 in Colorado, 12 at Coachella" from topekasnews.com. The only problem is that topekasnews.com is a satire Web site, one of dozens posting fake-but-just-barely-believable stories online. The marijuana story is fake, as are the numbers it cites.

The "author" of the story is one Haywood Bynum III, whose other bylines include "Is It Time For America To Invade The Middle East and Rename It New America," "German Soccer Team Uses Nazi Super Soldier Serum To Beat Brazil 7-1, Risks Start of World War III" and "Are Women Even People, Really?"

These fake news sites are everywhere, and they're a pox on the Internet as a whole. D.A.R.E. certainly isn't the first outlet to be taken in by one. But the calculus becomes different when you're an organization ostensibly dedicated to educating the public on a given topic. By publishing a satirical piece on the dangers of marijuana, D.A.R.E. risks undermining its message.

The organization's heyday was in the 1980s and 1990s, when the anti-drug movement was at

its most intense. D.A.R.E. focused a lot of its energies on discouraging drug use by kids, but multiple studies have found that the program does "little or nothing to combat drug use," according to Scientific American. Kids enrolled in the program were just as likely to use drugs as those who weren't, researchers found in 2009.

A major reason? The most successful anti-drug programs involved sustained interactions between students and adults. But D.A.R.E. never provided this, focusing instead on brief in-school visits by law enforcement officers.

The program has retooled itself in recent years, launching a new curriculum with the name of "Keepin' It Real." The new program is more grounded in research on drug abuse prevention, including the studies above. By applying those lessons, the new approach may yield some fruit.

Still, it's clear the program has lost some influence. Every year since 1988, for instance, the president had proclaimed one day in April to be "National Drug Abuse Resistance Education Day." But the Obama administration ended that tradition in 2012.

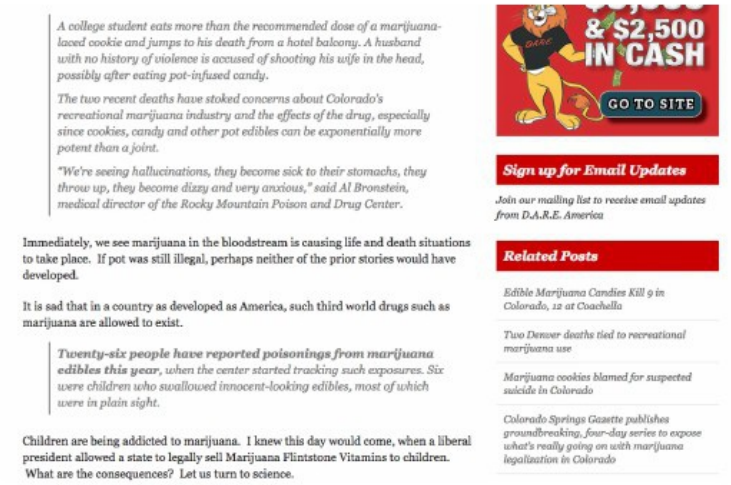
D.A.R.E. still receives funding from the Justice Department, the Department of State and numerous other government agencies and corporations.

For the past month, that funding has been used to spread the message that marijuana is a "third world drug" that causes teen pregnancies and leads to "primal aggression," and to promote demonstrably false claims about people killed by marijuana edibles.

A full screenshot is below:

Fake news story published on the website of D.A.R.E. on March 30.

Live
g3ntry
7:49 PM PDT
Lying and scaring is what DARE is all about, they lost their credibility with most people long ago due to an excess of bat-sh-t crazy propaganda over pot.
warfire911
Cops should just stick to sending mixed messages about bullying and heroes and leave it at that. Duh, gun good, kill bad.
TeargasAndLandRovers
How much are they and can I order them online?
Lawdog666
and we spent tax $$$ on these DARE morons!
g3ntry
Billions of dollars wasted.
danstrayer
18 billion since Jan 1 this year and counting faster than you can imagine. A fire hose of



A college student eats more than the recommended dose of a marijuana-laced cookie and jumps to his death from a hotel balcony. A husband with no history of violence is accused of shooting his wife in the head, possibly after eating pot-infused candy.

The two recent deaths have stoked concerns about Colorado's recreational marijuana industry and the effects of the drug, especially since cookies, candy and other pot edibles can be exponentially more potent than a joint.

"We're seeing hallucinations, they become sick to their stomachs, they throw up, they become dizzy and very anxious," said Al Bronstein, medical director of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center.

Immediately, we see marijuana in the bloodstream is causing life and death situations to take place. If pot was still illegal, perhaps neither of the prior stories would have developed.

It is sad that in a country as developed as America, such third world drugs such as marijuana are allowed to exist.

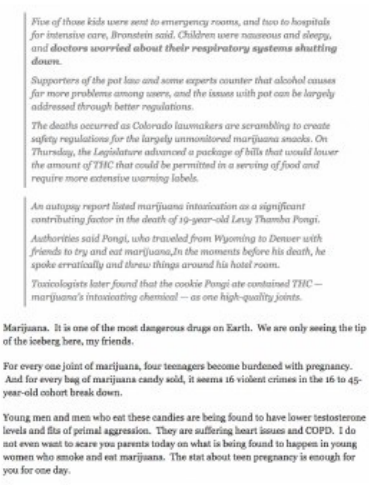
> ***Twenty-six people have reported poisonings from marijuana edibles this year**, when the center started tracking such exposures. Six were children who swallowed innocent-looking edibles, most of which were in plain sight.*

Children are being addicted to marijuana. I knew this day would come, when a liberal president allowed a state to legally sell Marijuana Flintstone Vitamins to children. What are the consequences? Let us turn to science.

& $2,500 IN CASH
GO TO SITE
Sign up for Email Updates
Join our mailing list to receive email updates from D.A.R.E. America

Related Posts
Edible Marijuana Candies Kill 9 in Colorado, 12 at Coachella
Two Denver deaths tied to recreational marijuana use
Marijuana cookies blamed for suspected suicide in Colorado
Colorado Springs Gazette publishes groundbreaking, four-day series to expose what's really going on with marijuana legalization in Colorado

Fake news story published on the website of D.A.R.E. on March 30.



*Five of those kids were sent to emergency rooms, and two to hospitals for intensive care, Bronstein said. Children were nauseous and sleepy, and **doctors worried about their respiratory systems shutting down.***

Supporters of the pot law and some experts counter that alcohol causes far more problems among users, and the issues with pot can be largely addressed through better regulations.

The deaths occurred as Colorado lawmakers are scrambling to create safety regulations for the largely unmonitored marijuana snacks. On Thursday, the Legislature advanced a package of bills that would lower the amount of THC that could be permitted in a serving of food and require more extensive warning labels.

An autopsy report listed marijuana intoxication as a significant contributing factor in the death of 19-year-old Levy Thamba Pongi.

Authorities said Pongi, who traveled from Wyoming to Denver with friends to try and eat marijuana,In the moments before his death, he spoke erratically and threw things around his hotel room.

Toxicologists later found that the cookie Pongi ate contained THC — marijuana's intoxicating chemical — as one high-quality joint.

Marijuana. It is one of the most dangerous drugs on Earth. We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg here, my friends.

For every one joint of marijuana, four teenagers become burdened with pregnancy. And for every bag of marijuana candy sold, it seems 16 violent crimes in the 16 to 45-year-old cohort break down.

Young men and men who eat these candies are being found to have lower testosterone levels and fits of primal aggression. They are suffering heart issues and COPD. I do not even want to scare you parents today on what is being found to happen in young women who smoke and eat marijuana. The stat about teen pregnancy is enough for you for one day.

Fake news story published on the website of D.A.R.E. on March 30.

money going in and a stream of lies coming out. Hope springs The DARE officer at my child's school

lost any possibility of leaving a credible impression when he falsely advised the classroom that children in Maryland are prohibited from any consumption of alcohol, period, and my son showed up the next day with the actual applicable law (that said otherwise). When my child quietly brought the error to the attention of the officer, the officer's response was, "yes, I'm aware of this law." Don't b.s. a room full of eleven year olds, they're much smarter than you think and lying to them robs you of any credibility.

danstrayer

I was about that age when I knew they were lying. That was 50 years ago.

peritaxi

The War on Drugs is such a failure, particularly the "Refer Madness" version, it is dissolving into a moronic, sad hyper-expensive joke on America itself.

Which makes it easier to explain why the Cops themselves reprint jokes as fact. They too have lost the ability to tell the difference.

Like the first Prohibition failure, time to admit what it is - failure - and move on. The longer we try to continue this fiction the more the joke is on US.

Danny Sprinkle

"In summary, the accumulated weight of evidence implies far lower risks for pulmonary complications of even regular heavy use of marijuana compared with the grave pulmonary consequences of tobacco." Donald P. Tashkin "Effects of Marijuana Smoking on the Lung", Annals of the American Thoracic Society, Vol. 10, No. 3 (2013), pp. 239-247.
Read More: http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1513/AnnalsA...

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Dead man comes back to life after being dropped into an ice bath by doctors

mirror.co.uk

Dead man comes back to life after being dropped into an ice bath by doctors

- 21:19, 14 April 2015
- By Richard Wheatstone

Dad-of-two Bulent Sonmez collapsed after suffering a massive heart attack and medics dumped him in the ice in a last-ditch bid to restart his heart

CEN/Getty

Back from the dead: Bulent Sonmez's heart was restarted through the ice bath treatment

A dad-of-two whose hearted stopped following a massive heart attack came 'back from the dead' after doctors put him in an ice bath.

Dad-of-two Bulent Sonmez looked like a goner as doctors failed to restart his heart when he collapsed shortly after being admitted to hospital.

But in a last-ditch bid to get his heart beating again, medics used a controversial therapeutic hypothermia treatment to lower his body temperature to just 30C to limit the effects of a lack of oxygen on the organs.

Once Bulent's heart had been started again doctors spent around 24 hours maintaining his heart rate and returning his body temperature to normal.

But the joy of his family was short-lived as it emerged the 40-year-old could only remember around half his life and had no recollection of his wife and children.

Together again: Bulent Sonmez with his wife Sibel

Bulent, from Ankara, Turkey, has since been able to piece together some of his memory following the life-saving procedure eight months ago but still has huge gaps in his recollections.

His wife Sibel Sonmez, 39, told local media: "It was like a movie, I didn't know how to explain the two children we had waiting at home.

"I tried to resolve it by showing him photographs, but it took a very long time to be able to convince him."

CEN

Medic Dr Omer Zuhtu said: "The man was released back home eight months ago and does seem to have regained much of his lost memory.

"We did not find much literature looking in detail at the side effects of therapeutic hypothermia treatment.

"It remains a controversial procedure but we believe in this case it certainly saved this man's life."

Therapeutic hypothermia treatment can be used to limit the effects of a lack of oxygen on heart attack patients but can cause severe brain damage.

It is occasionally used in the UK when written consent has been provided by next of kin.

CEN

Treatment: Bulent Sonmez was rapidly cooled down then brought back to normal temperature over a period of several hours

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Dead man convicted for stealing

stuff.co.nz

Last updated 09:44, April 30 2015

A Greek court has convicted a dead man of stealing electricity from a power company - even though he had died weeks earlier.

Defence lawyer Christos Bakelas told the Thessaloniki court that his client was deceased, and asked to have the trial deferred until he could deliver a death certificate. But the court refused, and convicted his client in absentia, giving him a six-month suspended jail sentence.

Thessaloniki police records show the 46-year-old unemployed father of three died on April 8, but Bakelas wasn't informed until the eve of the trial.

The man was charged last year after activists reconnected his power supply that had been cut by the electricity company for unpaid bills.

Bakelas said he was astonished by the court's decision and hadn't experienced anything like it in his 25 years as a lawyer.

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Decorator catches ghost on camera while exploring haunted hospital

18:01 EST, 1 May 2015 dailymail.co.uk

Decorator catches ghostly doctor on camera while exploring haunted hospital

- **Jamie-Leigh Brown took chilling photo at St Thomas's Hospital, Stockport**
- **She didn't realise at the time as her group were too spooked by footsteps**
- **The building was once a brutal Victorian workhouse called The Grubber**
- **It later became a hospital and treated thousands of psychiatric patients**

By Jack Crone for MailOnline

A woman exploring a derelict hospital was left stunned after a photo she took in the spooky building appeared to show the ghostly figure of a doctor.

Jamie-Leigh Brown, 21, was walking the abandoned corridors of St Thomas's Hospital in Stockport - which closed down in 2004 - when she took the chilling picture.

She did not check the photo at the time as she and her and friends were too concerned with the footsteps they were hearing above them - despite the hospital having no usable staircases.

Jamie-Leigh Brown was left stunned after a photo she took at the spooky St Thomas's Hospital in Stockport appeared to show the ghostly figure of a doctor

The group became spooked and fled the building after only a few minutes and it was not until later that Ms Brown discovered the haunting figure lurking in the background of the shot.

She told The Sun: 'It freaked me out. It's standing in a lift shaft. It's really creepy to think my friend was just heading towards the area where the ghost was.

'We'd only gone into the workhouse for a laugh and to look around. We kept hearing noises above us like shuffling and footsteps but hadn't actually seen anything.'

St Thomas's, formerly known as Shaw Heath Hospital, closed down more than a decade ago after treating thousands of psychiatric patients over the years.

The derelict building was once a Victorian workhouse known as The Grubber and three years ago it featured in an episode of paranormal investigation show Most Haunted.

Other sightings of ghoulish figures have been made at the site, including a 'radiant woman dressed as a nurse or a nun' according to paranormaldatabase.com - a website that lists

reports of ghosts.

The ghost is not clear in the image but it looks like a person wearing a medical gown and mask

A group of brave ghost hunters tackle the St Thomas Hospital

The original workhouse is thought to have been built in the 1841 to accommodate up to 690 inmates.

In 1894, the British Medical Journal set up a 'commission' to investigate conditions in provincial workhouses and their infirmaries.

On their visit to Stockport, the commission found that due to a trade depression, inmates in the workhouse were 'packed like sardines in a tin'.

The management of the hospital appeared to be 'completely without plan or method' and the female wards were 'comfortless and barnlike'. Many wards were so crowded as to present a serious danger in the case of fire.

A new infirmary was built in response in 1905 - and the workhouse later became the Shaw Heath Hospital, before becoming St Thomas's.

Since its 2004 closure, the site has now been acquired by Stockport College as part of their campus expansion.

The main workhouse building and some other blocks are planned to be retained and refurbished.

It is estimated around 25,000 people passed through the building's doors when it was brutal Victorian workhouse.

COLOURFUL HISTORY OF STOCKPORT'S 'HAUNTED' DERELICT HOSPITAL

Dark past: It is estimated around 25,000 people passed through the building's doors when it was brutal Victorian workhouse

St Thomas's Hospital, once the Stockport Union Workhouse, was erected in 1841 to accommodate up to 690 inmates.

Males lived at the north side and females at the south. Children's quarters and school rooms were located in cross wings at each end of the main block, with the area to the front containing enclosed boys' and girls' exercise yards.

In 1894, the British Medical Journal set up a 'commission' to investigate conditions in provincial workhouses and their infirmaries.

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A new infirmary was built in response in 1905 - and the workhouse later became the Shaw Heath Hospital, before becoming St Thomas's.

The hospital finally closed in 2004 and the site acquired by Stockport College as part of their

Although planned for completion in 2011, the buildings remain derelict.

It is estimated around 25,000 people passed through the building's doors when it was brutal Victorian workhouse.

Peter, beverley, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

If you are going to be 'ghost hunters' I'd have thought some decent photographic equipment was a sine qua non. HD video cameras aren't very expensive. All we have here is useless pixelated fuzz which (as usual) could be anything.

Wombat, The Grim North, 1 day ago

If you look on YouTube at the original video you'll realise how wrong this article is... They never even claimed to see a doctor!

Terry99, Croydon, 1 day ago

If on examining your photos you see a ghost or a big cat or whatever, the sensible thing is to return and take some more photos, with a pal standing where the mystery object was, and then some more photos from different viewpoints. That will usually reveal the truth. And what

about the ghost hanging from the ceiling above the person with the rucksack's head?

TW, London, 1 day ago

The reaction of those with closed minds to things because they don't understand them, or can't explain, would be predictable if they could go back hundreds of years to the Court of Henry the Eighth, and somebody turned up from the future with a computer and tried to show it them, or explain it. They would be screaming witchcraft. Open your minds people, just because things don't make sense right now, does not mean that further down the line they wont, and those seeing such things should not be dismissed so lightly. Who knows what is yet to be discovered and revealed. In the vast scheme of things we have not a clue, just as those at the Court of Henry the Eight had not for that generation.

Mikey1066, Kandy, Sri Lanka, 1 day ago

Yes yes yes I dont think

Vanna Rocha, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2 days ago

There are ghosts all over, so many don't go to a higher dimension and stay here, adicted to places, people, sex, drinks and cigarets, they are lower evolved souls. If they die very fast in pain and agony their spiritual body is very dense this is why people are able to see, Some dont know they are dead and stay in those places where they were before and go around as they were alive. Ghosts do exists , but not everybody has the ability to see, i can see sometimes, because i had some OBEs . And whem my 4 cats died very old they stayed with me at least 1 week walking in my bed, on top of me and my pillows, their spiritual body were very dense, i could fell and see like little cold clouds, some form of moving energy ; until the day they left. I saw all 4 cats in one of my OBEs after sometime and they were all fine and came to greet me with kisses and play. There was this guy from India taking care of my cats in the other side.

Waterfall, Edinburgh, 1 day ago

I experienced something very similar when my own cat died. He had been my childhood pet and we pretty much grew up together. He passed away in my early teenage years after serious illness. About a week later in the wee hours of the morning I became aware of a heavy weight on my legs while in bed. I moved legs to try and kick it off, but it suddenly dawned on me that it was moving. I could feel his paws moving on top of the covers trying to reposition himself. I had the sudden realisation that he had died not so long ago, and sat up to see him jump down onto the floor and walk to the other side of the room. I heard a gentle thud as his paws hit the floor. He then turned his head and looked directly at me. We looked at each other and he slowly faded away. I do believe that he returned to say goodbye. I never saw him again, but I do believe he is in a happier place now. I sure hope so anyway. I loved him very much. :-)

Alan, York, United Kingdom, 2 days ago

I see the 2,000 year old man "Francis Walsingham" has returned to bless us with his account of the history he must have witnessed; Quote; "No, it sounds like complete and utter rubbish. There's no jesus, no heaven, no hell, no asgard, no ragnarok, no spooks, no life after death. No proof, no doubt." Unquote. Still at least he hasn't posted 3 dozen abusive messages like he did on the last ghost article....yet. Now some might think he is stating what are merely his opinions as if they were fact because he could not possibly have been around in Judea 2 millennia ago or have died and come back to tell us his findings and he is abusing those who disagree with his opinions like an arrogant buffoon with no life. I couldn't possibly comment, after all 3 dozen sneering, abusive postings on a single article last time and Heaven knows how many this time around is perfectly normal behaviour...isn't it....?

echoecho77, Here, United States, 2 days ago

Not a very good pic but I don't really know what to think of this kind of thing. We've had some pretty odd things happen in the house since my mother-in-law passed away here four years ago. Like the TV and cable turning on by themselves to her favorite channel which my wife and I never watch and my wife's phone ringing with the caller id saying 'Mom's cell' when the account had been closed and my wife had deleted the number from her phone. There have been several other things happen that could only be connected to her. Nobody's ever seen her though. I still lean more toward coincidence but I don't doubt as much as I used to. I guess it's possible. We're a long way from having everything figured out.

AGRO2, brisbane, Australia, 2 days ago

this is why people who beleive things are as dump as everything. Why is the picture so bad to view? why is every ufo you see videos from distance and all has to be everything blurry and never quality ? why is everthing distance when you see something? why is this picture the same ? why every ghost story on a abanded building has to do with a hallway in the dark and a ghost from the distance ? all this is a set up. Today with good technology. technology and graphics and fool you more then what 10 years ago was. today technology can make things so realistic... you can even make a movie today 2015 of elvis presley but its all technology graphical set up.. having the president with elvis together for real? the real elvis of 1970s in 2015 ? yes that can be done with good quality technology in movie set ups. Dont get the technology fool your imaginations.. Exactly with this.

AGRO2, brisbane, Australia, 2 days ago

Just because it is a abanded building and just because it looks some what scary and it has to be night and dark to go in there.does not mean it has to somehow see ghost and acting being afraid. Have you ever seen these ghost reality shows where they go to buidings and all you see more are the camera man pointing the camera up really close at peoples faces ? thats just so it makes it look as if they are all afraid and close up faces to make it look spooky. all this is as stupid as trying to believe.. santa clause is real too? Why not all this during bright day light hours.how about better camera . Your in 2015 and not 10 years ago. surely you have a HD camera like everyone. And i tell you all this is just to make people believe things its just part of the entertaining reality concept. Dnt believe such thing. Whats with the hallway and distance a ghost in a mask? whats with the mask? to make us scared ? every abanded

building is a hallway with a ghost from distance ? lol

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Delays on M74 after dog 'drives' on to carriageway - BBC News

bbc.com

- 22 April 2015
- From the section Glasgow & West Scotland

Delays were caused on a busy stretch of the M74 motorway after reports of a dog "taking control of a tractor".

The incident - highlighted on Twitter by Traffic Scotland - took place at J13 at Abington, South Lanarkshire.

It later emerged that a sheepdog called Don, owned by farmer Tom Hamilton, had leaned on the controls of his utility vehicle, taking it on to the road.

Police and Mr Hamilton later recovered Don, who was unhurt, and the vehicle, from the central reservation.

Mr Hamilton told BBC Scotland that he was out on his off road pick up checking lambs in a field above the M74 near Abington.

Farmer relieved

As always he was accompanied by his Collie sheepdog Don, who was sitting beside him in the passenger seat.

Don escaped with little more than a fright

While Mr Hamilton was examining a lamb he turned round to see the Gator utility vehicle crashing through the fence and heading down an embankment on to the northbound lane of the M74 with Don still sitting in it.

The vehicle stopped after hitting the central barrier, smashing the windscreen.

Mr Hamilton said he feared that he had not pulled the handbrake properly and was extremely relieved that no drivers were hurt.

The farmer was also relieved that Don escaped with little more than a fright.

The episode caused a stir on social media when it was reported by Traffic Scotland at about 08:45 on Wednesday.

Dog puns

The transport body tweeted: "M74 (N) J13-RTC due to dog taking control of tractor... nope, not joking. Farmer and police at scene, vehicle in central res."

Shortly afterwards Traffic Scotland provided the update: "M74 (N) at J13 - Route is clear from earlier incident and dog is fine. Has to be the weirdest thing we have ever reported! No delays in area."

Police said the vehicle had gone through a fence near the motorway at about 08:15.

The incident led to plenty of dog puns as people responded to Traffic Scotland's tweets.

Tony T wrote: "Police investigating, so far no leads," while Beverley Friend added: "This is barking."

Michelle Muirhead asked: "Will the dog have points on his licence? Was he breathalysed? Did police arrest him?"

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Dinosaur with wings like a BAT found in China

12:01 EST, 29 April 2015

dailymail.co.uk

Weird 'dinobat' discovered in China: Dinosaur with wings like a BAT may reveal clues about the origin of flight

- **Yi qi is thought to have lived 160 million years ago during the late Jurassic**
- **The dinosaur has an unusual bone sticking out of its wrist and had a membrane that covered it to form a wing much like that of a modern bat**
- **Scientists say it is unlike any other dinosaur, which evolved into birds, and may have glided or even been able to fly by flapping over short distances**
- **The fossil was discovered by a farmer in Qinglong County in north China**

By Richard Gray for MailOnline

A bizarre new dinosaur with bat-like wings has been discovered by a farmer in China and is now helping to shed new light on the evolution of flight.

Palaeontologists in China say the impeccably preserved fossil belongs to a small dinosaur thought to have lived 160 million years ago.

The strange-looking creature had small stiff feathers on its body and long finger-like bones extending from each wrist that were covered in a membrane like a bat's wing.

Scroll down for video

The new dinosaur, named Yi qi (shown above in the artists reconstruction), had unusual bristle-like feathers and bat-like wings that were covered in a membrane. The dinosaur may have been able to glide and even flap

Scientists believe the dinosaur, which they have named Yi qi, meaning 'strange wing', may have glided or even flown through the air.

The discovery has provided new insight into how vertebrates first began to take to the air.

T REX'S VEGGIE COUSIN

A new lineage of dinosaur that grazed on plants, despite being closely related to notorious carnivore Tyrannosaurus rex, has been discovered in Chile.

Palaeontologists are referring to Chilesaurus diegosuarezi as a 'platypus' dinosaur because of its bizarre combination of characteristics, including its small skull and feet.

These features are more like those seen on long-neck dinosaurs.

The animal is proving to be an evolutionary jigsaw puzzle because it belongs to the theropod group of dinosaurs - which were predominantly carnivorous and included the famous meat eaters Velociraptor, Carnotaurus and Tyrannosaurus, from which birds today evolved - but was a vegetarian.

The presence of herbivorous theropods was up until now only known in close relatives of birds, but Chilesaurus shows a meat-free diet was acquired much earlier than first thought.

The dinosaur from the Late Jurassic Period, around 145 million years ago, is named after the country where it was discovered, and Diego Suárez, who discovered the bones.

Palaeontologists are referring to Chilesaurus diegosuarezi (illustrated) as a 'platypus' dinosaur because of its bizarre combination of features

Researchers say the dinosaur, which would have weighted just 13 ounces (380g), may have been an early evolutionary experiment with flight.

Yi qi belongs the group of carnivorous dinosaurs known as the therapods - which includes Tyranosaurus rex and velociraptor.

These dinosaurs are thought to have been the ancestors of modern birds.

But unlike modern birds, Yi qi was found to have a strange extra bone extending backwards from its wrist, rather like an entirely separate group of animals that learned to fly - the bats.

Professor Xing Xu, one of the world's leading prolific palaeontologists at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and who led the work, said: 'This is really something for me. It is the most unexpected discovery I ever made.

'Birds are descended from dinosaurs, but how exactly the transition occurred is not really clear. This new discovery is a new species of these bird like dinosaurs.

'This dinosaur is totally different. It has totally different wings from all other birds and their close relatives.

'Close to the origin of birds there are many lineages trying to get into the air but there was only one group that succeeded.

'I would have said this example shows how much experimentation close to this transition.'

The discovery comes in the same week as researchers announced the discovery of a bizarre vegetarian relative of the T-Rex.

The Yi qi fossil was discovered by a local farmer in Mutoudeng, in Qinglong County, Hebei Province in China.

The fossil has preserved stiff filamentous features on the forelimb and hindlimb, along with patches of the membrane that once stretched across its wings.

However, it was the strange wrists and long rod-like bones that extended from them that baffled the attention of the palaeontologists.

There are three main groups of flying vertebrates - the birds, which evolved from dinosaurs, pterosaurs that were flying reptiles that existed alongside the dinosarus, and the bats, which are mammals that evolved after the extinction of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago.

Most winged avian dinosaurs to be discovered so far all have wing structures that are similar to those of modern birds.

However, Yi qi, which is pronounced 'ee chee', appears to be a weird hybrid between a dinosaur and a bat.

This suggests that at the time several different types of winged dinosaurs evolved wings in an attempt to fly.

The fossil of Yi qi (above) was so well preserved that bristle-like feathers and the remains of its membrane wings could be seen around the bones. The strange long bone extending from the wrist was highly unusual

This close up of the skull of Yi qi, which weighed just 13 ounces (380g), show oval like feathers near the head

Analysis by Professor Xu and his colleagues, which is published in the journal Nature, suggest that it is likely the dinosaur glided, perhaps like modern flying squirrels.

The dinosaur lacked the strong muscle attachments to the forelimb bones and its bone structure would have interfered with the flapping and rotating movements needed during powered flight.

Instead it may have launched itself from elevated perches and glided to the ground. If it did flap its wings it would probably have only been able to fly over short distances.

But Professor Xu said: 'We thought giving this animal a name meaning "strange wing" was appropriate, because no other bird or dinosaur has a wing of the same kind

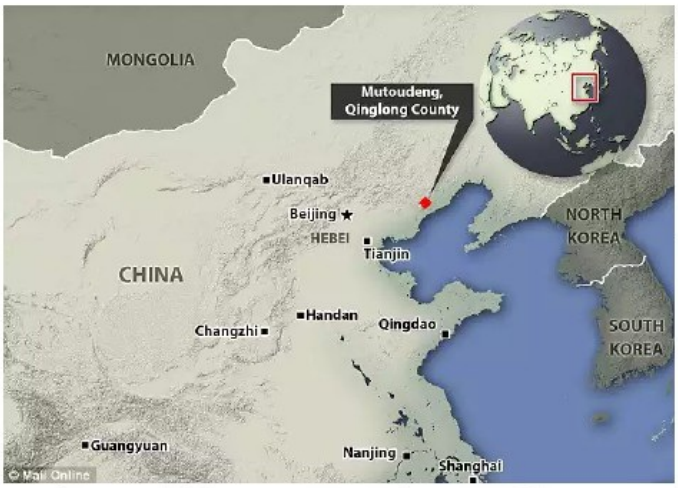
'We don't know if Yi qi was flapping, or gliding, or both, but it definitely evolved a wing that is unique in the context of the transition from dinosaurs to birds.'

It is likely that the conclusions will be controversial with other evolutionary biologists, but it could prove hugely valuable in unravelling how birds evolved from their dinosaur ancestors.

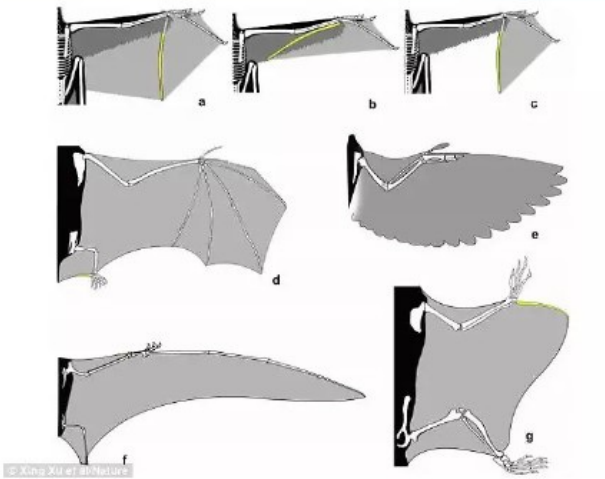
Professor Zheng Xiaoting, from Linyi University in Shandong who also took part in the study, said: 'Yi qi lived in the Jurassic, so it was a pioneer in the evolution of flight on the line to birds.

'It reminds us that the early history of flight was full of innovations, not all of which survived.'

Dr Kevin Padian, a palaeontologist at the University of California Berkeley, warned that the animal may not have been able to fly at all.



The fossil of Yi qi was discovered by a farmer working his fields in Mutoudeng in Qinglong County in China



The diagrams above show how the wing of Yi qi (a) compares to other winged tetrapods (b and c) and the wing of a bat (d), the wing of a pigeon (e), the wing of a pterosaur (f) and the wing of a Japanese flying squirrel (g)

He said: 'As for gliding, if Yi qi's styliform element helped to support a membranous aerofoil, it can be used to reconstruct the planform of the wing, as Xu and colleagues have done.

'But in a gliding animal, the centre of lift of the aerofoil should be fairly congruent with the centre of gravity of the body — if the bulk of the animal's weight falls too far behind the centre of lift, the back end will sag and the animal will stall.

'That is clearly the case in the authors' reconstruction of Yi qi, but an aerofoil that was swept back more, if anatomically possible, might have mitigated this problem.

'Still, we are left in a quandary: an animal with a strange structure that looks as if it could have been used in flight, borne by an animal that otherwise shows no such tendencies.

‘And so far, there is no other plausible explanation for the function of this structure.’

Heisenberg, Albuquerque, United States, about an hour ago

I wonder if there were 2 of these on Noah's ark.

RollinAFatOne, Belfast, about 3 hours ago

It's just a dragon

Pink Tiger, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom, about 3 hours ago

No matter how well it is presented by some scientists - one animal cannot change into a completely different animal whether by slow gradual changes or rapidly. Evolutionists don't like people saying that.

Stuart, Chelmsford, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

Neither would scientists ever claim that one animal could change into a completely different animal. That you think they do is a reflection of your own scientific illiteracy. Populations evolve, not individuals. New species arise from common ancestors through gradual accumulation of genetic differences in divergent populations. This fact is irrefutably confirmed by genome analysis. Time to for you to pick up a book or two rather than posting poorly informed brain-f@rts.

Drago Jones, White Oak Swamp, United States, 9 minutes ago

Pink, if you don't want to consider scientific research then don't post

spaceboy1978, London, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

That's amazing. It just goes to show how life doesn't change that much even though that particular bat existed 165 million years ago..... Imagine the animals, insects, reptiles and fish that have roamed this planet that we haven't and will never know about!!!!!! Gradual changes and processes.. That's an amazing discovery.. I'm really impressed by that.

Hazell53, Masterton, New Zealand, about 6 hours ago

it just lucky it doesn't exist today, imagine that in your hair at night

Leeuwenhoek, uk, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

It's an extinct species of bat. Nothing more, nothing less. Feathers? Probably collagen fibres.

Phil, Hull, about 4 hours ago

leeweewok - Try reading some books on evolution. And 16 million years is an incredible amount of time for bats to evolve after the extinction of the dinosaurs, but if you had read up on the subject you would understand that

Leeuwenhoek, uk, United Kingdom, about 3 hours ago

Phil - I don't need to "try reading books on evolution". 16 m years is not enough time as well you know. Perhaps YOU should study the subject a little more, for example, were you even the slightest bit aware that a bird which is unquestionably a true bird, has been found which dates at 60 m years older than Archaeopteryx. This is an "evolutionary" fact. Try reading in Science News Sept. 77. So if bat creatures"evolved" into birds....don't you consider for a moment something is wrong somewhere? I'm getting this info from EVOLUTIONARY literature by the way!I do "understand" the apparent processes of evolutionary biology, but I do not necessarily agree with it, whether you, or any one else for that matter, likes it or not. :-)

Sam Coleman, Chelmsford, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

DRAGONS ARE REAL!

XXXXinger, NSW, Australia, about 3 hours ago

That was my first thought! I've always felt that the dragon myth is so entrenched their must be a glimmer of truth in it somewhere.

Rowly II, Eastbourne, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Not ossible. This looks like a leather glove that has got grown into some wood. This kind of beast has not been created yet.

Phil, Hull, about 6 hours ago

Troll...nobody can be that stupid and manage to use a computer!!!

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Herophilus of Chalcedon: 335–280 BC

09/04/2012 medscape.com

The Journey of Discovering Skull Base Anatomy in Ancient Egypt and the Special Influence of Alexandria

Ali M. Elhadi, M.D., Samuel Kalb, M.D., Luis Perez-Orribo, M.D., Andrew S. Little, M.D., Robert F. Spetzler, M.D., Mark C. Preul, M.D.

Neurosurg Focus. 2012;33(2):e2

- Abstract and Introduction
- Ancient Egyptian Medicine
- Head Anatomy in Ancient Egypt
- Rise of the Greek Empire in Ancient Egypt
- Herophilus of Chalcedon: 335–280 BC
- Erasistratus of Chios: 304–250 BC
- Rufus of Ephesus: AD 80–150
- Galen of Pergamon: AD 129–199
- Conclusions

- References

Herophilus was born in Chalcedon, a settlement on the Bosporus, directly across from ancient Byzantium. As a teenager, he moved to Cos where the medical faculty formed by Hippocrates was located. At this time, Hippocrates had been dead for more than 60 years. Nonetheless, he greatly influenced Herophilus' work.[1]

After completing his medical education, Herophilus traveled to Alexandria in 300 bc at about the same time that the city had become fully equipped to support medical education. It was there that Herophilus, along with his contemporary Erasistratus, was able to perform systemic dissections and vivisections[4,28] on humans and animals, because Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II[17] had authorized vivisections of criminals sentenced to death. In fact, Herophilus often performed such vivisections publicly so that he could better demonstrate the effects of his methods. This practice on live humans was occasionally opposed by religious and moral beliefs. Cornelius Celsus wrote as follows:[40]

> Moreover, since both pains and various types of diseases arise in the internal parts, they [scil. the "Rationalists"] think that no one who is ignorant of these parts can apply remedies to them. It therefore is necessary to dissect the bodies of the dead and to examine their viscera and intestines. Herophilus and Erasistratus, they say, did this in the best way by far when they cut open people who were alive, criminals out of prison, received from kings. And while breath still remained in these criminals, they inspected those parts which nature previously had concealed, also their position, color, shape, size, arrangement, hardness, softness, smoothness, connection, and the projections and depressions of each,

> and whether anything is inserted into another thing or receives a part of another into itself. For, they say, when pain occurs internally, it is impossible for one who has not learned in which part each internal organ or intestine lies, to know what hurts the patient. Nor can that part which is ill be treated by one who does not know what it is. And when a person's viscera are exposed by a wound, one who does not know the color of an [internal] part in its healthy state, cannot recognize which part is intact and which damaged; thus he cannot even come to the aid of the damaged parts. External remedies also can be applied more suitably by people acquainted with the positions, shapes, and size of the internal parts… . Nor is it cruel, as most people maintain, that remedies for innocent people of all times should be sought in the sacrifice of people guilty of crimes, and of only a few such people at that.

Celsus and later Tertullian remarked that Herophilus vivisected at least 600 live prisoners.

Herophilus contributed to the knowledge of brain anatomy as he dissected the ventricles, choroid plexus, venous sinuses, arachnoid, cranial nerves and their foramina, and many other neuroanatomical structures. He named certain structures of the brain based on their shape, for example, the cerebrum (encephalon), cerebellum (parencephalon), torcular herophili, calamus scriptorius, and choroid plexus.[14] He described the bones forming the skull, the intervening sutures, and the membranous coverings of the brain. He described the lower brainstem and spinal cord as one structure he referred to as "spinal marrow."[41] Herophilus and Erasistratus established the importance of the brain and the sensory and motor functions of the nerves.[31]

According to Galen, Herophilus was the first to describe the connection between the cerebrum and cerebellum through the ventricular system and the structural distinction between the cerebrum and cerebellum. Herophilus extensively studied the lateral, third, and fourth ventricles because he thought they were part of the seat of the soul. He also described the inner lining of the ventricles as "choroid meninx or choroid twisted clusters."[41] Galen writes about Herophilus' description of the venous sinuses: "At the crown of the head the folds of the membrane [sinus transversus] that conduct the blood come together into a common space like a cistern, and for this very reason it was Herophilus' custom to call it "wine vat" [torcular herophili]. From this point, as from some acropolis, they [sinuses] send forth canals to all the parts lying below them."[41] Herophilus not only named the confluence of sinuses (torcular herophili), but he also compared it to the confluence in the ox, noting that it divides evenly in the ox but unevenly in humans.

When describing the human cranial nerves, Herophilus and Marinus (a contemporary who lived ad 70–130) debated the number of cranial nerves, especially the lower ones, that originate from the lower pons and medulla and the spinal roots of the accessory nerves.[41] Herophilus suggested that the facial nerve did not exit the cranial fossa but ended as it enters the internal auditory meatus, which he called the "blind foramen." He described the cavity in the floor of the fourth ventricle as the *calamus scriptorius* (*calamus* means "reed pen") because this cavity resembled the groove of a writing pen.[14,17] A confluence of sinuses in the skull was originally named *torcular herophili* after him.

Herophilus differentiated between nerves and blood vessels and discovered the differences between motor and sensory nerves. He believed that the sensory and motor nerves exited the brain and that neural transmission occurred by means of the *pneuma,* which was thought to be a substance that flowed through the arteries along with the blood. Although Herophilus stated that diseases occurred when an excess of one of the four humors impeded the *pneuma* from reaching the brain, it is clear that he studied the base of the brain and the cranium in detailed fashion to make such observations.

Herophilus pioneered the physiology of nerves, considering them responsible for voluntary movement. He possessed a considerable amount of knowledge on at least seven cranial nerves: the optic, oculomotor, trigeminal, motor root of the trigeminal, facial, auditory, and hypoglossal nerves.[14] According to Galen, Herophilus called the optic nerve "conduits" because it displays visible channels for the passage of animal spirits. Herophilus also mentioned a single nerve that has three roots coming from the brain. This nerve was further explained by Galen as the glossopharyngeal, accessory, and vagus nerves "wrapped" together in one sheet. Herophilus described the structures entering the eye as two large nerves (V1 and optic) and a smaller one (oculomotor). He also first described the styloid process, naming it after *styloi*, a pen used in Alexandria to write on wax paper. He also compared it to the famous lighthouse on the Island of Pharos (Fig. 7). Herophilus also studied the blood vessels at the base of the brain, which were named *rete mirabile*.[41] Unfortunately, none of the detailed writings of Herophilus survive, although many of his contributions were mentioned and confirmed by later historians or physicians.

(Enlarge Image)

Figure 7.

A: Photograph of a replica of the famous lighthouse of Alexandria at the Window of the World cultural park in Changsha, China. Image available at http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lighthouse_of_Alexandria_in_Changsha.jpg. **B:** Drawing of Alexandria's lighthouse by archaeologist Hermann Thiersch (1909) considered to be an excellent rendering of the original structure. Image available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lighthouse_-_Thiersch.gif. **C:** Comparative image from an original drawing by Austrian architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, who illustrated the Alexandrian Pharos from travelers' descriptions. The Pharos, the most recognized landmark of Alexandria, was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and one of the tallest structures of the ancient world. Built in 283 BC, it was about 140 m high, and for many years it guided ships for miles in the Mediterranean Sea. This well-known monument served as a lighthouse to the bay of Alexandria in ancient Egypt and was a beacon of science, hope, and light in the Dark Ages. The lighthouse underwent various renovations and embellishments but was badly damaged in the earthquakes of ad 956, 1320, and 1323. In 1480 the rampart had disappeared and a fort was built upon it. A major archaeological expedition discovered remains of the Pharos in 1994. Image available in Bergk JA: *Museum des Wundervollen, oder Magazin des Ausserordentlichen in der Natur, der Kunst und im Menschenleben.* Leipzig: Baumgärtner, 1803–1805.

Herophilus also introduced many of the scientific terms used to this day to describe anatomical phenomena. He was among the first to introduce the notion of conventional terminology, as opposed to the use of "natural names." He created terms to systematically describe the objects of study, named them for the first time, and established nomenclature so that there was some uniformity for study and description.

Neurosurg Focus. 2012;33(2):e2 © 2012 American Association of Neurological Surgeons

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Figure 7.

A: Photograph of a replica of the famous lighthouse of Alexandria at the Window of the World cultural park in Changsha, China. Image available at http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lighthouse_of_Alexandria_in_Changsha.jpg. **B:** Drawing of Alexandria's lighthouse by archaeologist Hermann Thiersch (1909) considered to be an excellent rendering of the original structure. Image available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lighthouse_-_Thiersch.gif. **C:** Comparative image from an

original drawing by Austrian architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, who illustrated the Alexandrian Pharos from travelers' descriptions. The Pharos, the most recognized landmark of Alexandria, was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and one of the tallest structures of the ancient world. Built in 283 BC, it was about 140 m high, and for many years it guided ships for miles in the Mediterranean Sea. This well-known monument served as a lighthouse to the bay of Alexandria in ancient Egypt and was a beacon of science, hope, and light in the Dark Ages. The lighthouse underwent various renovations and embellishments but was badly damaged in the earthquakes of ad 956, 1320, and 1323. In 1480 the rampart had disappeared and a fort was built upon it. A major archaeological expedition discovered remains of the Pharos in 1994. Image available in Bergk JA: *Museum des Wundervollen, oder Magazin des Ausserordentlichen in der Natur, der Kunst und im Menschenleben.* Leipzig: Baumgärtner, 1803–1805.

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Discussion: Wal-Mart: 'No Truth To The Rumors' Of Tunnels Being Built To Takeover Texas

MattinPA

MattinPA

Suicide_Arsonist said:

Oh, sure, that's what they want you to believe...

If they were *guilty* of it wouldn't they *want* to deny it? It's proof!

7 people liked this.

richardni

richardnixonhuberthumphrey

There's still Kansas. And there will always be Alaska.

1 person liked this.

Prime TPM prime member

ronbyers

Maybe Abbott, Rand and Cruz will learn one day that if you give in the conspiracy nuts just a little bit, one day you will be investigating whether the

3 people liked this.

Darcy

Darcy

One man's crazy is another man's (fund raiser) opportunity.

4 people liked this.

Prime TPM prime member

Victor Abrahamsen

But wait - it gets worse. Has anyone noticed the traffic circles that used to be near those local Walmarts? Where'd they go? Of course they're not th

My cousin's neighbor thought he saw a bunch of black vans driving down the Interstate to one of those "abandoned" Walmarts. Black. Vans. What was that

(And I'm not even joking when I say that someone has probably had a conversation exactly like that. We might not ever reach Peak Wingnut, but we're cert

7 people liked this.

GR

GR

In the Army, we used to say that if you had not heard a rumor by 1100, start one of your own.

We'll never know, but I would not be surprised to learn that some mischief makers are having fun here hitchhiking on this TX Obama takeover story. Somec

It CAN be fun if no one is hurt . I worked with a woman with a PhD who had been born to cultured Russian parents in a DP camp in Germany after WW2. B

She loved to play practical jokes. So, I carefully cultivated a rumor that she was actually a member of the Czar's family and from a branch that survived the
Totally absurd, right?

Not so. Just about everyone bought into it and began treating her with extreme deference, especially the women.

When she found out she nearly had a stroke laughing.

I learned how easy it was to start the most ridiculous rumors.

16 people liked this.

PearlyW

Pearly White

Wal-Mart: "This is bat-sh*t crazy.... even by Texas standards...."

BWAHAHAH

Do We Talk Funny? 51 American Colloquialisms

May 12, 2015

npr.org

Jennifer Maravillas/Ikon Images/Getty Images Jennifer Maravillas/Ikon Images/Getty Images

i

Has American English become homogenized? Have our regional ways of saying particular things — sometimes in very particular ways — receded into the past? Or do we talk as funny as ever?

When I was researching an NPR History Dept. piece on lost American slang words recently, slanguist Tom Dalzell — author of a raft of books, including *Vietnam War Slang* and *Flappers 2 Rappers: American Youth Slang* — told me: "For 100 years, we have trended away from regional slangs to a national slang. Radio, then television, then MTV and then the social media have all served to homogenize the slang that we use."

There is, Dalzell said, "very little regional slang left. *Hecka* or *hella* in Northern California or *wicked* or *pisser* in New England are examples of the few that survive." (*Hecka*, *hella* and *wicked* mean "very" or "really"; *pisser* means "stroke of bad luck.")

But what about nonslang regionalisms and colloquialisms? "There is a huge overlap between slang and colloquial and regional," Dalzell says. "Some would argue that *cool* is no longer slang but is so commonly used as to have lost the identity value and so is merely colloquial."

Cool.

'Dropped Egg'

Meanwhile, according to the website of the expansive Dictionary of American Regional English — *DARE* — language researchers are "challenging the popular notion that our language has been 'homogenized' by the media and our mobile population." They proffer that "there are many thousands of differences that characterize the dialect regions of the U.S."

Centered at the University of Wisconsin, *DARE* is celebrating its 50th year of studying our country's regional words and expressions — through field interviews in the early years and more recently through written materials spanning the history of the U.S. The dictionary has produced a multivolume reference work and continues to report on regionalisms through its website. With support, *DARE* is hoping to conduct more personal interviews using online surveys.

"Some regionalisms from a half-century ago have gone out of use," says Joan Houston Hall, the chief editor of *DARE*. "*Dropped egg*, for instance, was a strongly New England term for a

poached egg. But at that time, most of the speakers who used the term were over 60 years old, so I suspect that we would find very few instances if we were to ask the question again."

Why did folks drop the word *dropped?*

"No one knows for sure," Hall says. "Maybe it was a term associated with rural life; maybe with the popularity in the late '60s of Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking,* it was more fashionable to switch to poached egg. Often the changes are generational, for no apparent reason."

But new words come into use, Hall says, "and if they serve a purpose in a limited area, they become new regionalisms. Take *slug,* for instance, in the D.C. area. Here's our definition: one who hitches a ride with a driver who needs passengers in order to use a high occupancy vehicle lane."

Other recent regionalisms, she says, include: *squeaky cheese* — fresh cheese curds, chiefly in Wisconsin; *tiger meat* — steak tartare, also called a "cannibal sandwich," chiefly in Wisconsin; *spendy* — expensive, chiefly in the North, especially the Pacific Northwest and Upper Midwest; and *stuffie* — a stuffed clam shell, chiefly in Rhode Island.

"Regionalisms change," Hall says, "some of them dying, some expanding or contracting and others coming into our vocabularies."

Whoopensocker

Which set me to thinking about some of the regionalisms from *DARE*'s 50 years of research — and wondering if they still pop up in popular parlance.

Are the following 51 *DARE*-designated regionalisms from the past or from the present? Don't be *laggy*. Please take a look and let me know:

1. Alabama: *flip* — slingshot

2. Alaska: *skijoring* — being pulled on skis

3. Arizona: *greasewood* — creosote bush

4. Arkansas: *renthouse* — a house that is rented out

5. California: *make the riffle* — to succeed

6. Colorado: *buck* — a brace for cutting firewood

7. Connecticut: *pigsticker* — sled with pointed front

8. Delaware: *sneak* — tennis shoe

9. District of Columbia: *slug* — a hitchhiking commuter

10. **Florida:** *scaper* — rascal or critter
11. **Georgia:** *burk* — vomit
12. **Hawaii:** *huhu* — angry
13. **Idaho:** *lucerne* — alfalfa
14. **Illinois:** *scramble dinner* — potluck supper
15. **Indiana:** *belling* — loud celebration
16. **Iowa:** *kittenball* — softball
17. **Kansas:** *doodinkus* — unspecified object
18. **Kentucky:** *ridy-bob* — seesaw
19. **Louisiana:** *cowcumber* — cucumber
20. **Maine:** *putty around* — be idle
21. **Maryland:** *snoopy* — finicky
22. **Massachusetts:** *diddledees* — pine needles
23. **Michigan:** *sewing needle* — dragonfly
24. **Minnesota:** *ish* — expression of disgust
25. **Mississippi:** *squab* — fat person
26. **Missouri:** *hall tree* — clothes rack
27. **Montana:** *coulee* — valley
28. **Nebraska:** *on pump* — on credit
29. **Nevada:** *pogonip* — thick, icy fog
30. **New Hampshire:** *crawm* — food waste
31. **New Jersey:** *laggy* — lethargic
32. **New Mexico:** *colchon* — mattress
33. **New York:** *spiedie* — marinated meat sandwich
34. **North Carolina:** *table tapper* — amateur preacher

35. North Dakota: *limpa* — rye bread made with molasses

36. Ohio: *dope* — dessert topping

37. Oklahoma: *larruping* — delicious

38. Oregon: *cho-cho* — small boy

39. Pennsylvania: *skimmelton* — shivaree

40. Rhode Island: *driftway* — access road to the sea

41. South Carolina: *cascade* — vomit

42. South Dakota: *soak* — serious drinker

43. Tennessee: *hunk* — bumpkin

44. Texas: *worrit* — nag

45. Utah: *sluff school* — play hooky

46. Vermont: *pestle around* — putter about

47. Virginia: *garlicky* — bad flavor, said of milk

48. Washington: *marblehead* — winter squash

49. West Virginia: *slicky slide* — playground slide

50. Wisconsin: *whoopensocker* — something extraordinary

51. Wyoming: *dout* — extinguish

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Do you believe? Sasquatch replica draws curious

Wes Johnson, News-Leader

news-leader.com

tTaxidermy0126.jpg

A lifelike replica of a Sasquatch was created by taxidermist Ken Walker, from Alberta Beach, Canada.(Photo: Nathan Papes/News-Leader)

It towers above us, standing 6 feet 6 inches from bare feet to top of its furry head.

Thick, reddish fur covers its gorilla-wide body. Eyes glistening like shiny pools of ink peer back.

Renowned taxidermist Ken Walker has no doubt that Sasquatch is real.

And if you visit the World Taxidermy and Fish Carving Competition in Springfield Friday or Saturday, you'll see a lifelike recreation of what Walker says he witnessed.

A native of Canada, Walker said he saw something strange run across the road deep in the Alberta wilderness some 30 years ago and became fascinated with the legendary beast.

"It was on two legs during the bear season in the middle of nowhere — there were no cars, there were no people around," he said. "I assumed whatever it was was a person. But they were like 400 yards away and running scared. It cleared a big ditch in one leap. I found it very odd because it ran up a hill without even slowing down. Even bears don't do that.

"The guy with me said, 'Was that a Sasquatch?' And I said, 'No, there's no such thing.' Back then you couldn't convince me."

But after hearing similar encounters from people who visited his taxidermy shop, and investigating reports of Sasquatch sightings, Walker said "it makes way more sense that what I saw was a Sasquatch or a Bigfoot than anything else, or a person."

The female Sasquatch he crafted is the subject of a documentary that's being filmed called "Big Fur," and a camera crew is following Walker in Springfield during the taxidermy competition.

He sculpted the beast's body out of hard foam, and used the skin and long reddish fur from a Scottish Highland cow to capture what a real Sasquatch would look like.

Walker said he knows Sasquatch and Bigfoot creatures are controversial to many. But the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History taxidermy expert said he would never gamble his reputation with false claims about these mysterious creatures.

He set out to craft a lifelike Sasquatch after getting many requests from people who knew the exacting detail he puts into his taxidermy work.

Along with the creature he witnessed, Walker said he studied the famous 1967 Patterson film, that purports to show a Sasquatch walking away from the cameraman along a creek near Orleans, California. Various analysts have concluded the film was a clever hoax, including the man who claimed he was the one inside the ape suit.

Real or not, Walker drew from the film to sculpt a female Sasquatch.

“Believe it or not there is enough data in that film and reference to get something that was probably very close to what was filmed,” he said. “I don’t want to make something unless I can do it accurately.”

The piece certainly drew a lot of interest at the Expo Center in Springfield.

“It is so lifelike of the depictions that have come out and been seen,” said Cathy Vanderpol, of Molino, Florida. “I know the man that made this. I’ve heard the stories and seen some of the evidence and am convinced that he’s pretty spot on with this.”

Another passerby offered her view of his work.

“It would scare the dickens out of me if he was real, if I knew I might run into him in the woods,” she said.

Had she ever seen a Sasquatch?

“No I haven’t,” she quipped. “I’d probably invite him in for tea if I did.”

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Does This Look Like The Face Of A Couple Who Were Selling Golden Tickets To Heaven That Jesus Gave Them For $100?

| April 2, 10:30 am |45 Comments

Tito and Amanda Watts were arrested over the weekend for selling "golden tickets to heaven" to hundreds of people. The couple, who sold the tickets on the street for $99.99 per ticket, told buyers the tickets were made from solid gold and each ticket reserved the buyer a spot in heaven — simply present the ticket at the pearly gates and you're in. "People can sell tickets to heaven," a Jacksonville police spokesman said. "But the Watts misrepresented their product. The tickets were just wood spray painted gold with 'Ticket To Heaven – Admit One' written in marker. You can't sell something as gold when it's not. That's where the Watts crossed the line into doing something illegal." Tito Watts said in his police statement: ***I don't care what the police say. The tickets are solid gold… it ain't cut up two by fours I spray painted gold. And it was Jesus who give them to me behind the KFC and said to sell them so I could get me some money to go to outer space. I met an alien named Stevie who said if I got the cash together he'd take me and my wife on his flying saucer to his planet that's made entirely of crack cocaine. You can smoke all the crack cocaine there you want… totally free. So, try to send an innocent man to jail and see what happens. You should arrest Jesus because he's the one that gave me the golden tickets and said to sell them. I'm willing to wear a wire and set Jesus up…***

SOLD! Only 100 bones to live in Heaven for eternity with sexy angels and people feeding me grapes? I'll take two. I don't care what the police say, either. When I look at the mugshots of those two all I see are trustworthy people. People who I'd let watch my kids when I go out of town. People who I'd trust to water my plants. And yes, people who I would trust if they came up to me on the street offering a golden ticket to Heaven for the rootin' tootin' price of 100 dollars. You heard the man. Jesus gave him the tickets behind a KFC so he could sell them on the street, make enough money to board the flying saucer and then fly to the planet made of entirely crack cocaine. Free crack all day every day. I gotta tell ya, my head is starting to spin there's so many good points being made left and right by Ol' Scratchy Face. He's got life figured out. I didn't appreciate the last part of his quote where he's willing to sell out Jesus though. Dude, he gave you the tickets. He even said he'd wear a wire to set Jesus up! Snitches get stitches bruh. Snitches also don't get to board the flying saucer to Planet Crack. Watch your mouth and keep it shut.

Quite possibly the quote of the century from Mrs. Crazy

Amanda Watts said in her police statement:

We just wanted to leave earth and go to space and smoke rock cocaine.

Trent

| April 2, 10:30 am |45 Comments

45 Comments

1. by cbenner31 on
April 2, 2015 at 10:34 am

Looks like he got hit in the face with a grill.

2. by nicetits on
April 2, 2015 at 10:35 am

No way. I don't believe it. No way that guy's name is Tito.

3. by heybozo on
April 2, 2015 at 10:35 am

Couple of the year

4. by spoogelips on
April 2, 2015 at 10:35 am

They say love makes you do crazy things. But I say drugs makes you do crazier things. Combine the crazy and you have this story

5. by oralanal on
April 2, 2015 at 10:37 am

Planet Junkie, population you two winners

6. by texanstoolie on
April 2, 2015 at 10:37 am

No different than the Catholic Church selling indulgences back in the day.

7. by trufflebutter on
April 2, 2015 at 10:37 am

Seems legit

8. by hurtstospooge on
April 2, 2015 at 10:37 am

For looking like the offspring of incest, they're not that dumb.

9. by grommy on
April 2, 2015 at 10:37 am

Does this look like a guy named Tito who was behind a KFC dreaming about smoking unlimited crack? Actually, no. I had a different image in my mind for some reason.

10. by eagles365 on
April 2, 2015 at 10:38 am

Created an account just to point out how amazing his statement is. Mark and Sammy Sosa home run derby type stuff.

11. by yougottaproblem on
April 2, 2015 at 10:39 am

This is what im talking about Trent! A+ stuff.

12. by lmnoser on
April 2, 2015 at 10:39 am

so these guys could just go to heaven themselves but theyd rather have $100 for crack because things are going so well for them down here

13. by lmnoser on
April 2, 2015 at 10:40 am

“I mean we’d use the tickets ourselves but we got too much going on down here”

14. by pediatric_gyno2 on
April 2, 2015 at 10:42 am

Eerily similar to the origin story for Mormonism.

15. by patchung on
April 2, 2015 at 10:43 am

That story was one of the best things I’ve read this year. Thanks Trent. You the real MVP

16. by cbenner31 on
April 2, 2015 at 10:45 am

Why are my comments not showing up?

17. by martybarrett on
April 2, 2015 at 10:46 am

Who would’ve thought to search for Jesus behind the KFC? Pretty forward thinking right there. Outside the box times ten. Always in the last place you look.

18. by lmnoser on
April 2, 2015 at 10:47 am

They’d use the tickets themselves but they’ve got a lot of good things going down here

19. by ijreilly on
April 2, 2015 at 10:48 am

don’t understand the hate for this guy. he just does what he wants and takes pictures of it

20. by robertelee on
April 2, 2015 at 10:49 am

I knew these people were from jacksonville before i even read the story

21. by maritime on
April 2, 2015 at 10:52 am

That was the best fucking police statement ive ever read. legendary

22. by maritime on
April 2, 2015 at 10:53 am

did you ban me Trent? i thought we were boys? that or my f*ck got it censored?

23. by loosestoolie on
April 2, 2015 at 10:54 am

Best story of the year. Trent for MVP

24. by vicious on
April 2, 2015 at 10:57 am

These two aren't even the craziest part. What's insane is that "hundreds of people" actually bought these tickets!

25. by hmshugecock on
April 2, 2015 at 11:00 am

Why are you not talking about Lexi Thompson practically going TOFTB on the cover of Golf Digest? Clean it up.

26. by montucky on
April 2, 2015 at 11:02 am

Yes. Yes it does look like the face of a couple who were selling golden tickets to heaven that Jesus gave them for $100.

27. by harrydunne on
April 2, 2015 at 11:02 am

Those two guys are in lot of trouble.

28. by perdhapley on
April 2, 2015 at 11:06 am

A++. Trent you gotta pull the costanza and shut it down for the day, leave on a high note

29. by openbutthole on
April 2, 2015 at 11:16 am

The article is funny. The blog is written by Trent.

30. by nbarto on
April 2, 2015 at 11:22 am

Just fly them to the moon

31. by swizzle11 on
April 2, 2015 at 11:28 am

That's messed up to offer to wear a wire and set Jesus up

32. by westofberlin on
April 2, 2015 at 11:31 am

Yeah, this does look like a couple that would do that. Ya know crazies being crazies, nothing new.

33. by 100lbballs on
April 2, 2015 at 11:45 am

Isn't a planet made out of crack cocaine already Heaven? Sounds like it to them.

34. by thekidfrankie on
April 2, 2015 at 11:50 am

Willie Wonka must be pissed about the golden tickets

35. by bobbydurst on
April 2, 2015 at 11:51 am

Tito outkicked his coverage

36. by seven_costanza on
April 2, 2015 at 11:53 am

I realize it's Florida, but there's still no way that guy's statement is real.

37. by englewood on
April 2, 2015 at 12:03 pm

If this is real, it might be the greatest quote of all time

38. by 5minutemajor on
April 2, 2015 at 12:06 pm

Florida, Florida, Florida. You never take a day off.

39. by jewbagels on
April 2, 2015 at 12:26 pm

Jmac like you read about. Stuppid is a satire site

40. by ervingzisman on
April 2, 2015 at 1:01 pm

Haha behind the KFC. Just great.

41. by lennicodemo on
April 2, 2015 at 1:02 pm

This can't be real right?

42. by darklighter on
April 2, 2015 at 1:08 pm

I have an easier time believing his name is Amanda than it is Tito. Tito Watts? He should be arrested just for stealing the blackest name ever alone.

43. by notmymother on
April 2, 2015 at 1:24 pm

If you are stupid enough to pay, you should be the one going to jail.....how do you like your face?

44. by cstew036 on
April 2, 2015 at 1:34 pm

Yes. Yes they do

45. by mfallon86 on

April 2, 2015 at 1:54 pm

This is the best story in the history of barstool. When the guys says an alien named stevie said if we sell enough tickets to heaven he will take him and the wife to his planet made entirely of crack cocaine is pure fucking gold. Job well done boys hahaha, I was literally crying reading that!

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4:44PM BST 24 Apr 2015 telegraph.co.uk

Drinking milk from non-Indian cows 'could make children turn to crime'

India's middle class gated communities should keep their own cow herds with cows from India, Shankar Lal, leader of an influential Hindu nationalist group, says

Milk from Jersey cows may make children turn to crime, allegedly Milk from Jersey cows may make children turn to crime, allegedly Photo: Alamy Photo: Alamy

The **Jersey cow may seem like a cute symbol of the British countryside**, but according to Hindu nationalists in India it is a demonic creature and the cause of juvenile crime.

The claim was made by a leading figure in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the influential Hindu nationalist group which counts **Narendra Modi, the prime minister**, among its members. Mr Modi was educated by the group as a child and entered politics with its support.

The group has successfully lobbied for the slaughter of cows for beef to be banned in some parts of India because it offends higher caste **Hindus who worship them as a source of life**.

It also promotes the use of cow dung as antiseptic flooring, bovine biogas as fuel, and its urine as a 'cola' health drink.

Now it has launched a campaign to persuade **India**'s middle class gated communities to keep their own cow herds.

A Brahmin bull with colourful painted horns & decorations near the beaches of Mumbai

According to the RSS's cow protection section, the move would improve the condition of the animals, which often roam the streets and eat plastic waste, and also provide milk and medicines. It would also teach children the

importance of the animal in sustaining life.

They must, however, be "virtuous" Indian breeds and not Jersey cows if they do not want their children to turn to crime, the group's leader Shankar Lal said.

Indian cows are saatvik, he explained – virtuous or pure – and drinking their milk not only increases consumers' productivity but produces no evil thoughts.

By contrast, the Jersey cow, has "devil in the milk, poisonous particles", he said.

It's not clear it is a cow at all but "some kind of an animal which makes you think impure thoughts and do wrong deeds [which] results in increase in crimes", he added.

Jersey cows were first imported into India **during the British Raj** for cross breeding with Indian varieties to improve the quality of milk.

Today many cows of all breeds some way below pure – they are left to roam busy roads and survive on rubbish dumped on the streets.

Their milk has been contaminated by a scavenger diet of plastic bags and paper. Much of it is also adulterated, official studies have established.

Tests by the Uttar Pradesh government in 2012 found a quarter of 4,500 samples contained detergent, artificial whiteners and starch.

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Dubai: Pregnancy for world's first cloned camel

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere...

- 8 April 2015

One-humped camel Injaz, here with her surrogate mother in 2009, is now expecting a calf of her own

The world's first cloned camel is pregnant, according to scientists in Dubai.

Injaz, whose name means "achievement" in Arabic, was cloned from the ovarian cells of a slaughtered camel in 2009, and born via a surrogate mother. She celebrates her sixth birthday on Wednesday and is now carrying a calf of her own, The National newspaper reports. "She has conceived in a natural way," Dr Nisar Wani, scientific director at the emirate's Reproductive Biotechnology Centre, tells the paper. "This will prove cloned camels are fertile and can reproduce the same as naturally produced camels." Dr Wani says he's expecting the calf to be born later this year.

When Injaz was unveiled to the world a few days after birth, scientists hailed it as a significant breakthrough that would help to preserve the genetics of the camel population - both elite racing camels and those that produce milk. Since then many more of the animals have been produced through genetic cloning, including one cloned from the cells of a camel beauty pageant winner.

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Earth's Mysterious Hum Explained

livescience.com

by Charles Q. Choi, Live Science Contributor | April 14, 2015 07:19am ET

Even planets can get a bad case of tinnitus, according to a new study that explains Earth's mysterious, never-ending hum.

Scientists have long known that earthquakes can make the Earth sing like a bell for days or months. However, in the late 1990s, seismologists discovered the world also constantly vibrates at very low frequencies even when there are no quakes. This so-called microseismic activity is too faint for humans to feel.

Now, researchers say ocean waves are the culprit behind these mysterious tremors.

Many scientists had previously turned to ocean waves to explain our planet's unusual humming. In one theory, scientists proposed the vibrations were generated by huge ocean waves, which can extend all the way down to the seafloor. The waves can shake the Earth as they tumble over seafloor ridges and underwater continental shelves. Another idea suggested colliding ocean waves triggered the tremors. [In Photos: The 10 Strangest Places on Earth]

But neither idea could account for the entire range of vibrations seen on earthquake sensors. The new study combines both of these ideas into one model that accounts for these microseismic signals.

"I think our result is an important step in the transformation of mysterious noise into an understood signal," lead study author Fabrice Ardhuin, an oceanographer at the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, told Live Science.

Using computer models of the ocean, winds and seafloor, the scientists found that colliding ocean waves could generate seismic waves that take 13 seconds or less to complete one ripple. When it came to slower waves, they found that ocean waves moving over the seafloor could generate seismic waves with a frequency of 13 to 300 seconds. Most of the mystery hum comes from these longer waves. The pressure of these longer ocean waves on the seafloor causes most of the Earth's bell-like ringing, the researchers said.

A better understanding of this hum could help scientists generate better maps of the Earth's interior, Ardhuin said. These seismic waves penetrate deep into the planet's mantle and potentially all the way to Earth's core. This means that analyzing these waves could help yield a more detailed picture of the planet's structure, he said.

The researchers added there could be still more sources of microseismic activity. For instance, perhaps ocean waves traveling along shorelines or traveling down underwater mountains and mid-ocean ridges can generate seismic waves, Ardhuin said.

Ardhuin and his colleagues Lucia Gualtieri and Eléonore Stutzmann at the Paris Institute of Earth Physics detailed their findings in the Feb. 16 issue of the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

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No one knows why it's actually raining earthworms in Norway

Luke Garratt
Thursday 16 April 2015

independent.co.uk

Earthworms rain down from skies over Norway, puzzling scientists

A hand presents earthworms above a worm composter filled up with kitchen waste.

Popular theories on how they got there include violent weather phenomena such as water spouts

Meteorologists and biologists have been left baffled by earthworms raining from the sky over Southern Norway.

According to Norwegian news service The Local, the most recent phenomenon was discovered by biology teacher Karstein Erstad while he was skiing in the mountains.

“I saw thousands of earthworms on the surface of the snow,” he said.

“When I found them on the snow they seemed to be dead, but when I put them in my hand I found that they were alive.”

He thought they might have crawled through the snow, but rejected this idea, as the snow was over half a metre thick across the mountains.

This is not the only time an area experiencing worms raining from the sky in Norway, with other cases found in Molde and Bergen, both in the south of the country.

Read more: 'No garden can truly thrive without regular mulching'
Human waste blamed for turning one in 10 of Britain's male clams into females

One popular theory on random animal rain suggest that the worms may have been lifted up by a violent air pocket and then brought back down miles away from where they started.

Another theory says water spouts, weather systems similar to tornadoes, can travel from seas onto land and pick up vegetation, debris, and small animals, carrying them miles away from where they started before they blow themselves out.

According to Erstad, it’s not a new phenomenon, with reports of worms raining from skies above Norway dating back to the 1920s.

Earthworms preserved at The Grant Museum of Zoology.

This rain of worms isn't confined to Norway either, with a similar case reported at a Scottish Academy secondary school in 2011.

According to a report by STV, a teacher and his students had to take cover during a game of football after worms started falling from the sky.

Teacher David Crichton said: "We were out playing football and had just done our warm up and were about to start the next part of the lesson.

"We started hearing this wee thudding noise on the ground. There were about 20 worms already on the ground at this point."

Crichton told STV he and his colleagues counted 120 worms across the astroturf pitch following the rainfall.

The phenomenon remains a mystery.

Heaven sent: Other falling creatures

* Between AD 77 and AD 79 the Roman writer Pliny the Elder recorded a storm of frogs and fish in his Natural History.

* Showers of live minnow and smooth-tailed sticklebacks fell on Aberdare, Wales, 11 February 1859.

* On 21 May 1921 thousands of frogs fell on Gibraltar during a thunderstorm.

* On 4 March 1998 a shower in Shirley, Croydon, included a large number of dead frogs.

* A heavy storm in Acapulco, Mexico, on 5 October 1967, was accompanied by maggots around 1in long.

* Dozens of fish, later identified as flounder and smelt, were found in gardens and on roofs in the borough of Newham in east London, following a thunderstorm on the night of 27-28 May 1984.

* On 17 May 1996 a fall of more than 20 small fish was witnessed at Hatfield in Hertfordshire.

* A shower of apples brought rush-hour traffic to a halt in Coundon, Coventry on 5 December 2011.

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Egypt's animal mummy 'scandal' revealed - BBC News

bbc.com

By Rebecca Morelle Science Correspondent, BBC News

- 7 hours ago
- From the section Science & Environment

Scientists say they have exposed a scandal at the heart of Ancient Egypt's animal mummy industry.

A scanning project at Manchester Museum and the University of Manchester has revealed that about a third of the bundles of cloth are empty inside.

Researchers believe there was a huge appetite for these religious offerings, and demand for the mummies may have outstripped supply.

The project has been followed by the BBC's Horizon programme.

> We found around a third don't contain any animal material at all - so no skeletal remains
> Dr Lidija McNight

The research team has been conducting the largest scanning project of its kind.

More than 800 mummies, ranging from cats and birds to crocodiles, have so far been analysed using X-rays and CT scans.

About a third of those scanned contain complete animals, which have been remarkably well preserved.

Another third contain partial remains - but the rest have been empty.

Dr Lidija McKnight, an Egyptologist from the University of Manchester, said: "There have been some surprises.

"We always knew that not all animal mummies contained what we expected them to contain, but we found around a third don't contain any animal material at all - so no skeletal remains."

> In terms of how many animals were reared and killed, it would have been on an industrial scale
> Dr Campbell Price, Manchester Museum

Instead, she explained, the linen was padded out with other items.

"Basically, organic material such as mud, sticks and reeds, that would have been lying around the embalmers workshops, and also things like eggshells and feathers, which were associated with the animals, but aren't the animals themselves."

Unlike human mummies, which were created to preserve the body for the afterlife, animal mummies were a religious offering.

"We know the Egyptians worshipped gods in animal forms, and an animal mummy allowed you some connection with the world of the gods, " explained Dr Campbell Price, curator of Egypt and Sudan, at Manchester Museum, which will have an exhibition on animal mummies in October.

"Animal mummies were votive gifts. Today you'd have a candle in a cathedral; in Egyptian times you would have an animal mummy.

"You would go to a special site, buy an animal mummy, using a system of barter. You'd then give it to a priest, who would collect a group of animal mummies and bury them."

This catacomb contains about two million mummified ibis birds

Excavations have revealed that demand for these sacred gifts was high.

About 30 vast catacombs have been discovered in Egypt, packed from floor to ceiling with millions of mummies. Each tomb is dedicated to a single creature, such as dogs, cats, crocodiles, ibis and monkeys.

Scientists estimate that up 70 million animals may have been mummified by the Egyptians.

"The scale of animal mummification between about 800 BC and into the Roman period was huge," said Dr Price.

> Often the most beautifully wrapped mummies don't contain the animal remains themselves.
> Dr Lidija McKnight,, University of Manchester

"In terms of how many animals were reared and killed, it would have been on an industrial scale. The animals were young and killed when they were quite small. To achieve those numbers you had to have a very specific breeding programme."

The researchers believe that despite the fact that animals were mass-bred, the mummy makers probably struggled to keep up with the demand.

However, they do not think that the partial or empty mummies were a scam, and the pilgrims may have known they were not burying a complete creature.

"We think there is probably more to it than that," Dr McKnight told the BBC.

"We think they were mummifying pieces of animals that were lying around, or materials associated with the animals during their lifetime - so nest material or eggshells.

"They were special because they had been in close proximity with the animals - even though they weren't the animals themselves.

"So we don't think it's forgery or fakery. It's just that they were using everything they could find. And often the most beautifully wrapped mummies don't contain the animal remains themselves."

Horizon - 70 Million Animal Mummies: Egypt's Dark Secret, will air on BBC 2 on Monday 11 May at 2100.

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Egyptologists Unearth Tomb of Long Lost Pharaoh so Ancient Only His Name is Known

ancient-origins.net

The newly identified tomb of Khaba.

22 April, 2015 - 01:03 Mark Miller

Egyptologists Unearth Tomb of Long Lost Pharaoh so Ancient Only His Name is Known

Many people think of ancient Egyptian dynasties as fairly well-documented, but there were many kings whose lives and deeds are lost in the dust of time. One was King KhaBa of the Old Kingdom's Third Dynasty of 2650 to 2575 BC.

As with so many kings, KhaBa's name, which means 'The Soul Appears' or 'Radiant Soul', is recorded but very little else is known about him. That may soon change, as a tomb of KhaBa in the Quesna archaeological site in Nile Delta has been uncovered. It is the first tomb excavated from this period.

The mud-brick monument was first uncovered at Quesna in 2010, but it was not until last year that the archaeological team returned for further investigations. A press release from the Ministry of Antiquities reports that: "excavations revealed the tomb to be 14.1 m long north-south, by 6.0 m wide east-west, with a corridor chapel 3.0 m wide nearly running the length of its east side. It is a tripartite tomb, with the southern section having a rubble fill representing the primordial mound of creation, the northern section containing the burial shaft and the serdab, with the central section holding the double burial chamber."

The most significant finding was made just a few days ago, when the research team found a remarkable artifact in one of the burial niches – a seal impression bearing the name of King Khaba.

Artifact found in the burial tomb carrying the name

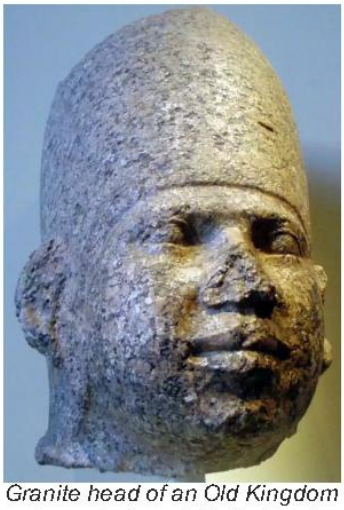
Artifact found in the burial tomb carrying the name of King Khaba (Egypt Exploration Society)

"The discovery of this tomb is a great achievement. We still do not know much about this king and his dynasty, much study and research much be done to unveil its history," said Mamdouh al-Damaty, on April 20, 2015.

Al-Damaty said KhaBa probably ruled around 2670 BC. He is one of the earliest kings of the Old Kingdom. The Tour Egypt website says KhaBa may have been one of the names of Huni, who was king later in the

of King Khaba

Third Dynasty. Another king of the Third Dynasty, Djoser, has more fame and a more spectacular pyramid (see below).



Granite head of an Old Kingdom pharaoh, thought to be Huni, who's been identified with KhaBa. These men rule circa 2650-2600 BC. (Photo by JMCC1/Wikimedia Commons)

Granite head of an Old Kingdom pharaoh, thought to be Huni, who's been identified with KhaBa. These men rule circa 2650-2600 BC.

"We know very little about the king, who probably occupied the throne of Egypt near the end of the 3rd Dynasty, named Khaba," says TourEgypt.net. … "His *nswt-bity* [kingly] and *nbty* [heraldic goddess] names are unknown. It has been suggested that the king's birth name might have been Teti. In the Turnin King List, this king's name is marked as 'erased,' but is credited with a reign of six years. The fact that his name was marked as 'erased' may mean that there were dynastic problems, or simply that the scribe who composed the Turin King List was unable to read his name from more ancient records."

KhaBa predates the time when the term *pharaoh* was applied to Egyptian kings.

Prior to the recent find at Quesna by National Geographic and Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities, KhaBa had been known from archaeological evidence at four or five sites, including a mastaba, or early type of pyramid, at Zawiyet al-Aryan where eight alabaster bowls with his *serekh* were found. A *serekh* is like a seal that indicates a king's name.

However, this is the first tomb excavated in more than a century that can be attributed to the reign of King Khaba.

A name of the Egyptian king Khaba was etched on an alabaster vessel. It is now in the Petrie Museum in London. (Udimu/Wikimedia Commons)

A name of the Egyptian king Khaba was etched on an alabaster vessel. It is now in the Petrie Museum in London.

The most famous Third Dynasty king was Netjerykhet, who is said to have founded a new epoch in ancient Egypt.

Aerial view of Djoser's step pyramid at Saqqara (Photo by RThiele/Wikimedia Commons

"Also known as Djoser, he ruled for almost two decades and is accredited with building the Step Pyramid at Saqqara," says Tour Egypt. "The king's vizier, Imhotep, was the architect of that great tomb, and of the magnificent Funerary Complex of Djoser at Saqqara. Egypt experienced a seven year famine during Djoser's reign, so he sought the counsel of

Aerial view of Djoser's step pyramid at Saqqara

Imhotep and one of his governors, Medir, and agreed to travel to Elephantine at Aswan. Once there he erected a temple to the god Khnum, who was said to controlled the flow of the Nile. The famine ended, miraculously enough, and people believed it was due to this act of faith."

Featured image: The newly identified tomb of Khaba (Egypt Exploration Society)

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Indians flock to see EIGHT-limbed baby believed to be Hindu god Ganesha

express.co.uk

A BABY born with eight limbs has caused Hindus to flock to a sleepy Indian village in the belief he is the god Ganesha.

By Alix Culbertson
PUBLISHED: 14:59, Wed, Apr 22, 2015 | UPDATED: 06:48, Thu, Apr 23, 2015

Caters•Getty

The baby boy, born with four arms and four legs, is causing chaos in Dumri-Isri in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand.

Locals believe he is the reincarnation of the Hindu deity Ganesha - the most worshipped god - who has multiple arms and an elephant head.

Since the birth of the baby - who is yet to be named - the otherwise sleepy village has turned into a pilgrimage destination.

The birth defect is thought to come from the remains of an underdeveloped conjoined twin.

Kuntalesh Pandey travelled an impressive 115km (72 miles) across the state from Hazaribagh to catch a glimpse of the boy.

He said: "When a friend first sent me a picture I wrote it off as photoshopped but when he confirmed that it is real I came to see the baby straight away."

Local nurse Sarita Devi, who is caring for the newborn boy, added: "We are taking great care of the baby."

The condition of the baby's mother, Ureda Khatun, is unknown.

15 Comments
nicholasbutteryNEW19 hours ago
I thought the God in question was Vishnu?
CleopatraNEW1 day ago
Welcome to the third World, Down our high streets.Villages,and Benefit offices. VOTE UKIP.
Miss Floribunda RoseNEW1 day ago
The child will be regarded as holy by those around him rather than as a freak. Perhaps this is all for the best, from his point of view.

BookwormNEW1 day ago
Oh the poor little sweetheart. What a load of superstitious nonsense. Where are the medical people out there to separate the two sets of limbs? You can clearly see this was almost a co-joined twins type birth. Stupid people will make this poor child's life a misery.
photobuffNEW1 day ago
Inbreeding or eating too much curry.
Miss Floribunda RoseNEW1 day ago
I hope he never becomes a pickpocket.
florence4NEW1 day ago
With the assistance of MONSANTO.
old fellowNEW1 day ago
This is the same cult that had a sect that revered smallpox victims. That poor child will be lucky to survive.
SparkletteToesiesNEW1 day ago
Poor child.
kelNEW1 day ago
Every time this happens they think it's Ganesh, I'm pretty sure there are co-joined twins alive in india right now - surely they can't all be Ganesh. These people would benefit from some education to understand what happens when twins fail to separate properly in the womb.

What else is our foreign aid for ?
johncNEW1 day ago
Spending billions sending Rockets into space ...but still cant stop interbreeding !
PeterboroughboyNEW1 day ago
You cant cure stupid people.....
firestormNEW1 day ago
Backwards country
ucannotmakeitupNEW1 day ago
How can they associate a mistake in the transformation of embryoes or fetuses as god? In this day and age, such beliefs show nothing but ignorance!
audreyrNEW1 day ago
I hope this little child will reeive appropriate care and not be used as an exhibition

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Embryonic Twin Found in Woman's Brain

By John Cádiz Klemack
Updated at 12:56 AM PDT on Thursday, Apr 23, 2015

nbclosangeles.com

An Indiana woman undergoing surgery in Los Angeles to remove a tumor experienced a twist worthy of a sci-fi plot when doctors discovered an embryonic twin in her brain.

Yamini Karanam, 26, was unaware of what was happening in her head until she underwent a procedure designed to reach deep into the brain to extract the tumor. After waking up from the surgery, Karanam was surprised to learn of the "teratoma" -- her embryonic twin, a rarity in modern medicine, complete with bone, hair and teeth.

Karanam realized last September that something wasn't registering in her mind. The Indiana University Ph.D. student was experiencing trouble comprehending things she read.

"Problems with reading comprehension, listening comprehension. If a couple people were talking in a room, I wouldn't understand what was happening," Karanam said.

What became more frustrating for Karanam was that her doctors would contradict each other regarding the source of the problem.

"The neurologist would say the neurosurgeon is not being practical in your case," Karanam said. "And the neurosurgeon would say the neurologist is not being optimistic in your case. And I'm like, could someone be educated about this?"

That's when her own research led her to Dr. Hrayr Shahinian at the Skullbase Institute in Los Angeles. Shahinian developed a minimally-invasive way of reaching deep into the brain to extract tumors.

"Unlike traditional brain surgery where you open the skull and use metal retractors and you bring a microscope to see in the depths of the brain, what we're doing is keyhole surgery," he said.

The method uses fiber-optic technology with digital imagery. A half-inch incision into the brain allows for an endoscope to reach in and slowly and very delicately chisel away at the tumor.

Karanam awoke to learn what was causing her all that trouble in Indiana. She lightheartedly called the tumor her "evil twin sister who's been torturing me for the past 26 years."

"This is my second one, and I've probably taken out 7,000 or 8,000 brain tumors," Shahinian said.

Shahinian said his fear was that tumor may be cancerous. Pathologists, though, determined that not to be the case and Karanam is expected to make a full recovery in only three weeks.

Karanam said her biggest frustration was that so many other brain surgeons had no idea Shahinian's technique was available.

"It's really unfair that people don't know about it," she said. "This has to be mainstream. This is the first thing that they should get you. When they know you have a pineal tumor, they should tell you, 'You know what? There's a minimally invasive approach in which they won't kill you, they won't leave you with a disability. There's a way in which you can live your life just the way you want to.'"

Shahinian said before he invented his technique, the only option to remove this type of tumor would have been surgery that included removing half of the skull. He says because the brain is such a sensitive organ, the less it's disturbed, the better.

"We want to be in and out without the brain knowing we were there, and I think that's the beauty of this technique," Shahinian said.

Published at 11:39 PM PDT on Apr 21, 2015

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Italian exorcists warn the Vatican of the dangers of 'beautiful young vampires' and satanic

Michael Day
Monday 13 April 2015

Exorcists warn Vatican over 'beautiful young vampires' and satanic yoga

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson share a moment in the first Twilight f

Father Cesare Truqui says that dioceses in Italy and beyond were experie

The proliferation of "beautiful young vampires" in TV series and Hollywood course.

"There are those who try to turn people into vampires and make them drin such possessions is rising globally. "These groups are attracted by the so-

'True Blood', starring Rutina Wesley and Kristin Bauer van Straten, is one of the cult vampire series apparently fuelling occult pursuits

Professor Ferrari, who heads an Italian possession as rare, with many suspecte

Swiss exorcist Father Cesare Truqui tol exorcism is little known among priests.

The Pro-Gay Pope

In 2C dioce

"Tha pinn

Fath scandals in the Roman Catholic Church were proof that "the Devil is at work inside the Vatican". He took a simila

READ MORE: Rise in 'irregular exorcisms'
Vatican caught in two minds over damnation
Catholic church trains more priests to perform exorcisms

Gay rights and IVF fertility treatment were listed as signs of existential evil in society by Monsignor Luigi Negri, th by the Bible," he declared.

Exorcism guidelines: don't try this at home

Professor Giuseppe Ferrari gave delegates at the Vatican-backed course a checklist for improve the effectivenes

* Exorcisms should only be carried out by properly trained priests, licensed to do so by the diocese in which they

* Lay people should never perform exorcisms, say the special prayers of liberation, nor bless or touch a possess

* Exorcists should defer to qualified doctors or psychiatrists, though priests may help by praying.

* Priests should not perform the Eucharist during an attempt to exorcise somebody because that can make the p

* Priests must welcome and pay heed to anyone who reports that a demonic possession may have taken place.

* Exorcists should consider the possibility that symptoms may be due to known medical conditions and seek app

I am bit confused about why people are attempting to have a serious discussion about this. It is the funniest news
Kostiksyd 1 days ago
I agree. Practitioners of one Mumbo-Jumbo complaining that the other Mumbo-Jumbo is too mumbo-jumboey. It'
Womble 1 days ago
It can be noted that Popery will act a lot quicker on any matter that challenges its Authority rather than punish its abused by some of its 'Professors', History is littered with the debris of Roman Persecution, from the 4th Century vindictiveness, even teaching that the World was flat until a few hundred years ago. Terrible things are done by F being carried out in Gods Name, he must indeed weep at what he sees done in his name!
Dave Cawdell 1 days ago
'beautiful young vampires' ? Haven't you heard the phase "as dead as Kirsten Stewarts eyes" ?
RichardJC 1 days ago
I guess, in the case of yoga, the church are worried about competition?
qwerty 1 days ago
Virtue and Evil - both exist. Virtue is alias of God and Evil that of satan. But, then what is evil ? It is all the dark fo darkness for satan.

Then why worry abt satan? all that you need to do is take complete refugee under the strong and powerful arms

Now, there are people arguing, in addition to trust and complete obedience to God, you also need to worry abt th and 2 horns and with this image threaten even the most saintly people with this image!
jabber 1 days ago
Evil exists! We see it on these boards every day.
Art 2 days ago
The catholic pope and his zombies should worry about their own demons and pedophiles priests still roaming thr
jabber 1 days ago
Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.
cjones1 2 days ago
It should be noted that societies that sought to remove the influence of the Catholic Church have resorted to barb
I remember an example from the book of Acts where a group of individuals attempted to perform an exorcism on apparently.
The fallen angels and their subordinates seek to wreak havoc on mankind whether yoy believe it or not.
cjones1 2 days ago
There does seem to be an extraordinary surge in evil and a new morality being promoted that excuses classical i
I may be biased, but some of the greatest acts of murder and genocide have been committed by those under the
RichardJC 1 days ago
In the news last night I heard that "traditional morality" resulted in a woman being locked in a mental home and d
Christianity would be any different.

Bigotry is rife in right wing Christian america, causing misery for those on the receiving end and resulting in peop
chris 2 days ago
Anyone who doesn't believe Satan can take human form hasn't looked Hillary Clinton in the eye.
BoilerVette 2 days ago
Anyone struggling with strange mental or physical problems should always rule out medical explanations. Nothin
Jomama1134 1 days ago
Thats because there is no such thing as any devil
LibertyAdvocate 2 days ago
"It's like training to be a journalist without knowing how to do an interview,"

Ha!!!!! Modern journalists have mastered THAT skill. Easy Peasy! Just take the prospective interviewee's press r
denial. Just ask the anyone assigned to the White House Press Corp.
Jonely 2 days ago
The real worry is that people with mental health problems may be tempted to go to a priest for 'exorcism' instead
The Vatican is obviously too powerful to have this nonsense exposed for what it is, but we can all do a little bit to
If you hear voices in your head, don't attempt to barbecue your children like Abraham planned to do - see a doct

Vasco DeGama 2 days ago
insert Downward Facing Dog joke here.....
Gordon_the_Pict 2 days ago
The Catholic church struggled to keep the Bible in Latin so that the uneducated masses could not question the a
trip to Iraq and Syria and try working on the real manifestation of evil that appears daily there. And do ISIS practi
carpy87 2 days ago
“small woman, who could not be pinned down by three strong men”. sounds like someone trying not to be raped

There is no place for religion in 2015. It is simple an out of date version of politics for the more simple minded. It's
DT7 2 days ago
In the majority of studies, being a devout member of a Judeo-Christian faith is correlated with weel-being, happin
rates of suicide, less anxiety, lower rates of alcohol and drug us, less criminal activity, and greater marital stabilit

So contrary to your assertion, millions of people positively benefit from religion.
RichardJC 1 days ago
How strong was the correlation and how much variance within each group? I've seen Christians suffer greatly fro
community.
Sapprun 2 days ago
I don't know...chubby female vampires with artificially inflated lips. Will that work?
LeisureForeigner 2 days ago
You might speak with industry execs and convince them to stop depicting the cleavage. From what I can see, the
Reply
Wendy Graham 2 days ago
Hahahaha...cults
This is seriously tragic but also hilariously funny. Have these credulous fools not realised it is the 21st century an
Well, probably not since they are clearly gormless and gullible for any mumbo jumbo.
And satanic yoga.....really?
Turk Sandwich 2 days ago
You do realize that Yoga is a form of worship, right? If by worshiping another god is satanic then Yoga by its very
Richard Flynn 2 days ago
Worshipping what, exactly? As I work through asanas, all I am reminded of is a school PE lesson! You need to tr
Mith Randir 2 days ago
If the failing Catholic church wants to jam the seats with paying worshipers, RELEASE THE VIDEO OF EXORCI
Nuits de Young 2 days ago
This is utterly imbecilic.
Steve Hill 2 days ago
It seems very likely that people who "need" exorcisms are suffering from some form of mental illness.

It also seems very likely that priests are in many cases giving the patient a "diagnosis" he or she wants to hear, a

I would go so far as to say they are doing more harm than good.
j.stokes.92 2 days ago
Why does the Catholic Church still exist?
DG 2 days ago
Because Jesus promised it would never fail.
Jomama1134 1 days ago
Because 90% of the world is stupid
almostvoid 2 days ago
the church is at the foundation of this. they invented the devil a millennium or so ago and now they complain. tsk
Tomgreaves 2 days ago
No greater institution to promote the malevolent, grotesque and thoroughly evil tendencies of humankind exists t
institution has the gaul to offer exorcisms to rid people of their demons. No, people need to get rid of the Roman
Wendy Graham 2 days ago
I'll agree, as long as you add in the extremes of any cult.

jabber 1 days ago
You sound stable.
RedRoseAndy 2 days ago
It is more likely that the increase in mental illness is due to the ever increasing amount of sleep we loose. Poor oı
almostvoid 2 days ago
you are deluded
SomeRandomGuy 2 days ago
Honestly, I don't know what's worse. Demons whether imagined or not.....

Or Liberal FASCISM... KEEP blessing this fascism off of us Francis.
RichardJC 1 days ago
Fascism: "an authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization."

Liberals are definitely not right wing. You may not agree with politicalcompass.org, but they show parties such as
zenobia 2 days ago
They're going to be bored to tears if they join the OTO. Other than the heroin use, they are the most tedious peoı
Bharat Patel 2 days ago
In these day and age , when some religions believe in pedophilia and Jinns , how can the catholic church argue a
Old Dissenter 2 days ago
****
DG 2 days ago
"the Vatican regards genuine demonic possession as rare"
That may be the case, but lesser demonic influences are not rare at all, are very serious, and deserve the help of
Although exorcisms should indeed be performed only by an authorized priest, all Christians may and should pray
Jesus said that in certain cases of demonic influence, relief can be achieved only by prayer and fasting. Christian
that the graces from Jesus' prayer and fasting will be efficacious for them in their own efforts against satan. No oı
Jesus also said His crucifixion would be the occasion for the prince of the world (satan) to be cast out. Christians
jaytea 2 days ago
You should read Amorth's book, he would ask the families to pray and fast and often this was what made the diffı
DG 2 days ago
I have. His second book is even better than the first.
Wendy Graham 2 days ago
Do you really believe all this rubbish?
Proof that membership of any cult rots the brain
Tracy May 2 days ago
and disbelief in Almighty God rots the soul!! God is real and he is not waiting for you to approve of him. Arroganc
this is real, you should humble yourself, and pray. Only through great humility can truth be found. Pride, and arro
DG 2 days ago
The Christian faith is based on the eyewitness testimony of all Twelve Apostles that they personally saw Jesus a
Moron 2 days ago
Probably a lot less racist, sexist , bigoted and hateful than the Church. At least these folks realize there is no sucl
Rory Hughes 2 days ago
Well, if you need a suspension of disbelief to enjoy a good vampire fantasy, then you certainly do to be part of a ı
Nuits de Young 2 days ago
The difference is that readers/viewers of fantasy and horror fiction know it's fiction and only suspend disbelief for
Proudly Unaffiliated 2 days ago
The "satanic yoga" I practice feels good. But should I switch to pilates?
touchtime 2 days ago
I married a young female vampire, she sucks the money out of my wallet every night.
Carl M 2 days ago
I only hope the New Pope steps back a seconds and understands the liberal Media is a Soft form of Satan and e
thrushjz 2 days ago
Satan's best trick is to get so called modern man to believe he doesn't exist...
370530e 2 days ago

So I can admit that Satan exists or deny that he exists thus proving that he actually does exist? OK, I think I've g
Tracy May 2 days ago
"REALLY" he exist regardless of what you believe! So does God, and he is not waiting for approve from you. Arr
more conformation of the reality of their existence. I would suggest that you HUMBLY ask God if he is real and e
RichardJC 1 days ago
If anything is arrogant Tracy May - it is the belief that you and your sect alone of all of the world religions know th
Jomama1134 1 days ago
Gee How convenient
Otto Zeit 2 days ago
"The twilight is ending.
Night is descending.
And Angels of Light come dancing in the dark."
Ken 2 days ago
Who poses the bigger threat to young people, vampires or pedophile priests?
Lord3160 2 days ago
The degrading of morality poses the biggest threat.... and homosexuality fits in that definition nicely...
Nuits de Young 2 days ago
Well, the latter are real…
Mcmlxi 2 days ago
Yes yes yes - we have heard it all before from the religious bigots.

Doe she not mention the number of children who have been scarred for life because of his little friends? How od
Bob Anderson 2 days ago
In other news.... Check this out music fans.... Jimi Hendrix FAKED his death and became actor Morgan Freeman
moosehunter 2 days ago
Wow! What is this world coming to? Invisible friends in the sky? Reminds me of those clowns in quantum physics
back up this belief . Boy , I guess PhD stands for" piled higher and deeper".
2ndprotectsall 2 days ago
Don't forget Enviro-mentalism as a cult.
Charlayne 2 days ago
Oh boy, I'm in trouble with the Vatican. I don't do yoga. I'm writing a series about vampires and angels (Fangs & I
the priest at the Catholic church where she's living and does confession, telling the priest she's a vampire. And th
Hawaii Dan 2 days ago
If possession is so common why don't they teach exorcism at medical school? ER doctors should know how to tr
Jim From Hawaii 2 days ago
The first issue would be whether people currently enrolling in medical school even believe in non-material realitie
Baby Love 2 days ago
Are we travelling back to 1015.
JoeyBagoDonuts 2 days ago
How ridiculously stupid
Stu 2 days ago
Certainly Satan is seen frequently during Yoga sessions. I found out my daughter was attending them and beat h
causing wens and bunions to form all over her body. It is for this reason I'm reaching out to other Catholics on wh
uselessprophet 2 days ago
Tell me where you are Stu and maybe I can point you in the right direction, or you can turn yourself in for child ab
you should ask a doctor for leaping to the worst possible scenario, you sick depraved individual.

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Exotic animals 'on the loose' after Tiger Safari near Oklahoma City hit by tornado

cw39.com

Posted 10:14 PM, May 6, 2015, by Tribune Media Wire

Exotic animals ‘on the loose’ after Tiger Safari near Oklahoma City hit by tornado

TUTTLE, OK— An exotic zoological park in Oklahoma was hit by a tornado on Wednesday and the owners confirmed some of the exotic animals are “on the loose,” according to KFOR.

The wildlife park houses leopards, lions, alligators, tigers and other exotic animals.

Residents who live near the park have been asked to stay inside.

No other information is available at this time.

Heavy rain and multiple tornadoes hit central Oklahoma on Wednesday.

A tornado was spotted 20 miles southwest of Chickasha, Oklahoma, around 3 p.m. local time. Another tornado was spotted near Amber around 4:20 p.m. A tornado 1/2 mile wide was seen on the ground near Newcastle around 5:30 p.m. local time.

Some areas south of Oklahoma City have reported at least 12 inches of rain as of 11 p.m. ET.

35.290895 -97.812266

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Benicia Main Street will host an interactive Ghost Walk on April 17.

LocalStream April 15, 2015

The paranormal history of Downtown Benicia will be revealed on this interactive Ghost Walk led by paranormal investigators Deborah Hogarty and Serena Desoto.

The event has limited capacity and lasts approximately two hours, depending on what entity you encounter along the way. Walking shoes and a flashlight are recommended. Kids 12 years and older are permitted on tours, and ages 12-17 must be accompanied by adult.

Cost is $25 per person. Prepaid reservations required by calling (707) 745-9791. For more information, click here.

Source: Happenings Downtown this Week & Weekend!

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Expert Says He's Solved The Mystery Of The Calbuco Volcano UFO

The Huffington Post | By David Moye and Lee Speigel huffingtonpost.com

Expert Says He's Solved The Mystery Of The Calbuco Volcano UFO

Posted: 04/24/2015 3:22 pm EDT Updated: 04/24/2015 3:59 pm EDT

When the Calbuco volcano erupted Wednesday after being dormant for 40 years, it threw a lot of ash and smoke into the air.

It also may have attracted a UFO.

Photos and videos of the blast show a mysterious glowing craft hovering in mid-air near the eruption before disappearing.

Ana Luisa Cid uploaded a video of the alleged UFO to YouTube, describing it as "Luminous object near the plume, captured on 22 April 2015." She added, "Some believe it may be a drone or a police helicopter. What is striking, in my opinion, is that the object remained static, then vanished. Optical illusion?"

The flying object remains unidentified, but UFO researcher Marc Dantonio, believes it most likely is a drone.

Dantonio, of FX Models, previously created a "UFO" drone for a National Geographic special and is the chief photo and video analyst for the Mutual UFO Network.

ufochilevolcano

When Dantonio first looked at Cid's video, he considered that the two-sphere object in question might have been a simple CGI effect, added to the volcano video.

But, after looking at other videos of the same eruption event, he's changed his opinion.

"In at least one video of this eruption, you can see what I have identified as a definite drone," Dantonio told The Huffington Post in an email. "It appears to be a Phantom 2 drone, based on the lighting pattern. This drone was captured by several witnesses in a video compilation of five different videos of 'the UFO.'

"In the compilation of those five videos, there is one that shows the two-sphere object from a different perspective and this new perspective indicates that the object/drone was far closer to the observers than to the volcano. I believe it was launched in the town and brought up to

altitude where it held station to observe the ash plume."

Dantonio's assessment: "We are looking at a drone that is relatively high and nearby, and the drone pilot is capturing video of the ash plume."

Although Dantonio's explanation is plausible, UFO sightings are fairly common in Chile.

Last August, the country's Committee for the Studies of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena (CEFAA) held a meeting about whether unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) pose any danger to civilian and military air operations.

The official verdict was the UFOs don't represent a danger, according to UFO researcher and HuffPost blogger Leslie Kean.

It's not unusual to see UFO volcanoes, either.

In January, a webcam captured an object resembling a flying horse hovering near the erupting Colima volcano in Mexico, the Tech Times reported.

In May, 2013, a person videotaped a UFO seeming to enter Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano, though at least one expert believed it was a commercial aircraft.

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Fake Skeletons Found in 'Underwater Tea Party' Mistaken for Human Remains in Colorado River

ktla.com

Posted 11:47 AM, May 6, 2015, by CNN Wire, Updated at 12:02pm, May 6, 2015

A diver responding to a tip about possible human remains at the bottom of the Colorado River on the California-Arizona border swam down to find an elaborate "underwater tea party," authorities said.

La Paz County Sheriff's Office and Buckskin Fire Department were dispatched to the area near a boat launch in the western Arizona county on Monday after a person out snorkeling reported the find, according to a release from officials.

The diver, a member of the Fire Department, went underwater to investigate. He recorded video of what he found — two fake skeletons sitting in lawn chairs.

"Although the call itself was resource-intensive, both the Sheriff's Office and Buckskin Fire were happy to find that the remains weren't real and thanked the reporting party for making the call," a sheriff's Facebook post stated.

The find was made in the river on the Arizona-California border, about 20 miles south of Lake Havasu City.

A diver responding to a tip about possible human remains at the bottom of the Colorado River swam down to find an elaborate underwater tea party. (Credit: La Paz County Sheriff)

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Falling cemetery headstone kills toddler in Texas

yahoo.com

May 9, 2015 11:38 PM

(Reuters) - A 4-year-old boy died when he was visiting the a Texas cemetery with his family and a nearly 100-year-old headstone fell over and struck him in the head, authorities said.

The child, whose named was not released, was brought to the Odessa Regional Medical Center on Friday where he was pronounced dead, Corporal Steve LeSueur, a spokesman for the Odessa, Texas, Police Department said on Saturday.

An autopsy will be performed on the child by authorities in Tarrant County, LeSueur said.

The accident occurred at the Ector County Cemetery in Odessa, in the western-central part of the state.

(Reporting by Chris Michaud and Alex Dobuzinskis; Editing by Alex Richardson)

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Federal judge dismisses Nebraskan's suit against all homosexuals

POSTED: WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015 5:24 PM
UPDATED: 5:40 PM, WED MAY 6, 2015.

By Alissa Skelton / World-Herald staff writer

http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/federal-judge-dismisses-nebraskan-s-suit-against-all-homosexuals/article_ac48f042-f43e-11e4-8161-63df2bd2525d.html

A federal judge will not allow a Nebraska woman to be a legal spokeswoman for God and his son, Jesus Christ.

Judge John Gerrard dismissed a lawsuit Wednesday filed against all homosexuals.

Sylvia Driskell, 66, of Auburn, Nebraska, had asked the court last week to decide whether homosexuality is a sin.

In a strongly worded opinion, the judge said it is not up to the court to decide whether homosexuality is sinful.

Gerrard said Driskell lacked subject matter jurisdiction and cannot sue a class of unidentified defendants. Driskell did not set forth a factual or legal basis for a federal claim.

"The United States Federal Courts were created to resolve actual cases and controversies arising under the Constitution and the laws of the United States," Judge Gerrard said. "A federal court is not a forum for debate or discourse on theological matters."

Gerrard declined to allow Driskell an opportunity to amend her complaint.

Contact the writer: 402-444-1066, alissa.skelton@owh.com

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Fire and Loss: Gore Orphanage and Its Legends - Who Forted? Magazine

By Ken Summers on April 3, 2015

whofortedblog.com

goreorphanage

Northeastern Ohio teenagers have been creeped out for generations by the story of Gore Orphanage. A ruined stone foundation in Lorain County bears the marks of countless trespassers, wannabe Satanists, and ghost hunters searching for child spirits and telling creepy campfire tales. Now, it's the subject of a low-budget horror flick due out in October 2015.

You wouldn't necessarily know it from the trailer, but *Gore Orphanage* is billed as a horror movie. Instead of being a gore-filled scarefest, it's more of a creepy "period piece" set in 1934 according to Executive Director Cody Knotts. The storyline follows a young orphan girl living at Gore Orphanage, her interactions with the other children, and a cast of dysfunctional employees.

Growing up in northeast Ohio, I first became aware of the legend after reading *Haunted Ohio* by Chris Woodyard. A prolific writer of Ohio ghost stories, Woodyard did more than just recite the rumors; she shed light on the true story behind the place. What most people know as Gore Orphanage is a twisting confusion of the truth, and some of its most interesting aspects are left out entirely.

To begin, you must know that Gore Orphanage never existed.

Gore Orphanage Road, originally called Gore Road, has nothing to do with horror and everything to do with surveying. A gore is a wedge-shaped piece of land inserted into a map to correct a surveyor's error. Disappointing, I know. The Light and Hope Orphanage, however, did exist on this road beginning in 1903. It was one of several by that name built by Reverend John Abraham Sprunger, a Mennonite missionary and evangelist from Switzerland. The reverend and his wife/cousin Katharina lost all three of their own children in infancy which spurred their quest to care for other young unfortunate souls. Unfortunately, Reverend Sprunger believed in faith healing, which did little to improve the health and poor condition of its children. Excessively cruel punishment, malnutrition, and unsanitary conditions caused many children to run away to nearby farms for safety. Sprunger died there of a stroke on September 28, 1911; the orphanage soon fell into bankruptcy and closed in 1916, leaving the farm and four buildings abandoned. Traces of the ruins can still be found today just west of the 'Cry Baby Bridge' (one of Ohio's many) on Gore Orphanage Road.

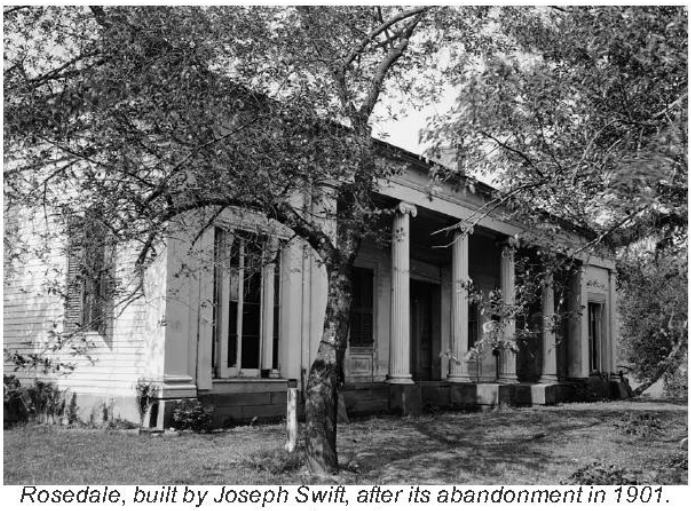
The Reverend John A. and Katharina Sprunger. (Max Haines)

The overgrown foundation explored by thrillseekers hunting for Gore Orphanage was actually a mansion built in 1840 by a prosperous Massachusetts farmer named Joseph Swift. Swift named his home Rosedale, but locals referred to it as “Swift’s Folly” after the farmer made a series of disastrous financial investments in railroads. Rosedale was sold to the Wilber family in 1865 after Swift became penniless. Nicholas Wilber and his wife Eliza had a son named Miller; together with his wife Henrietta, they had four children.

The Reverend John A. and Katharina Sprunger.

Now, here is where things getting really weird.

Miller’s father Nicholas was known locally to have been a Spiritualist (not to be confused with Satanist *cough*). It was rumored that one room of the fourteen room Swift Mansion was devoted entirely to holding séances. Miller and Henrietta moved to a farm in nearby Berlin Heights. There, all four children died between January 13 and 19 of 1893, during a Black (or “Milk-Borne“) Diphtheria outbreak. If you believe the local stories, Eliza had a nervous breakdown from the sudden loss of her four grandchildren. Not only did the family allegedly hold séances to contact them, but Eliza began a nightly ritual which attracted the attention of curious locals. She would set meals on the table for her deceased grandchildren, and every night call out, “Time for bed, children, come on!” before tucking the spectral children into bed.



Rosedale, built by Joseph Swift, after its abandonment in 1901. (HABS/LOC)

Rosedale, built by Joseph Swift, after its abandonment in 1901. (HAER)

Eliza passed away on November 10, 1899. Nicholas died on February 26, 1901, at which time the mansion was abandoned and left derelict. The Light and Hope Orphanage did not occupy the mansion, but it owned the property and surrounding fields. The real orphanage was built closer to the intersection with Sperry Road. But as soon as the mansion was abandoned, it became known as the local “haunted house” where teenagers would dare each other to enter after dark. This lasted until December 1923 when–either by vandalism or vagrant trying to keep warm–Rosedale burned to the ground. The story, published on December 8, 1923 in Elyria’s *Chronicle-Telegram*, says it all:

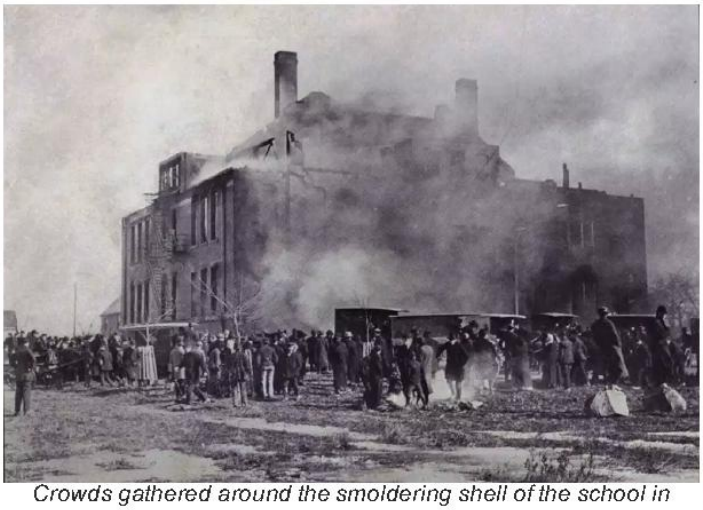
> **“Only two spectral stone chimneys now stand on the site of the old haunted house that has been a mystery at Mill Hollow for many years. The colonial mansion burned to the ground in a midnight blaze.**

Neighbors, who heard mysterious noise around the place on stormy nights, swear that spirits were screaming in the trees at the height of the blaze.

How the fire started is a mystery…

The haunted house was the mecca for thousands of tourists. Names of visitors from all quarters of the globe adorned the dilapidated walls of the house."

Local teenagers were combining the stories together as early as 1908. The tale of the four children dying from illness became attached to Rosedale. Their graves were whispered to be found along the river. From that time on, Swift's mansion was known as a place haunted by ghostly children. Matters became worse when on March 4, 1908, the Collinwood school fire claimed the lives of 169 children and staff. The twisting of this true tragedy became retold as the burning of Gore Orphanage killing countless children. In reality, aside from the deaths of Reverend John Sprunger, Nicholas and Eliza Wilber and two of their children (Tryphenia in 1831 and Heman in 1841, aged 5 and 24 respectively, buried at a tiny cemetery south of Swift's Hollow) prior to construction of the mansion, there were no other deaths on the grounds. (Whether or not any children from the orphanage died of disease is unknown; its records have been lost.)



Crowds gathered around the smoldering shell of the school in Collinwood in 1908. (CSU)

But does this mean there are no spirits lurking near Gore Orphanage Road? That's a matter of some debate.

Perhaps the Wilbers stirred something up with their Spiritualist séances, because strange things happen around the ruins of Rosedale. Visitors wandering through the woods in search of the fictional orphanage report finding children's handprints on their vehicles when they return, and ghostly mists are reported near the old house foundation. I have personally visited the site several times early in my ghosthunting career with various other people. I've seen questionable handprints on cars, but one incident in particular has left me questioning my eyes for several years.

Around 2004 (give or take a year), I explored Gore Orphanage Road with a now-defunct paranormal group consisting of about a dozen people. Inside the old foundation, a makeshift fire pit spray painted with poorly-executed pentagrams (connect your corners, amateurs) had been set up by some curious trespassers before, and I chose that place to sit and for once, just observe without worrying about audio recordings or cameras. I let my eyes focus to the darkness, trying my best to avoid the wandering gang pointing their flashlights everywhere and the extra-chatty person sitting beside me. I could see something in the dark woods due north of my location along the path leading back to the vehicles. The more I focused, the

more it appeared to be a greenish faint fog, like a miniature tornado perhaps 3 or 4 feet high and a foot or two across, drifting and wobbling in the trees. As I watched, two more faintly appeared nearby. But every time the annoying person next to me started babbling, they would get more distant. An especially loud group member approached me to brag about some “amazing” orb photos, and at that time I lost sight of the phenomena. To this day, I’m not sure if it was some trick of the eye or something as-yet unexplained.

What, if anything, lurks among the trees along Gore Orphanage Road? And What about this place has continued to lure curious people for over a century? Is it the creepy dead children, the creatively crafted urban legend, or can we simply not resist the temptation of scaring ourselves in a dark, deserted hollow?

Ken Summers

Ken Summers is a historical researcher and purveyor of strange tales and forgotten hauntings. An explorer of haunted sites since 1995 and the apologetic creator of the "orb color chart," he has always endeavored to balance eager curiosity with logical questioning in the pursuit of truth. Ken is reluctant to call himself either a skeptic or a believer, yet throughout his life, he has had strange experiences that fall under the category of "unexplained". His last book, *Queer Hauntings*, was published in 2009.

1. Dan Michalski

   04/06/2015 at 12:39 PM

   Back in the middle 70’s the nearby bridge on Gore Orphanage Road was a popular teen hangout for drinking and such…local kids from Amherst and other Lorain County high schools would meet there frequently to recount scary stories and to play pranks on each other.

   Never really knew the real story of the area. Thanks for the info!

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Fire sinkhole story shows how mystery mongering site gets your 'click'

by idoubtit • April 12, 2015 • 1 Comment

A certain mystery mongering, ad-infested site that declares an apocalypse every friggin' day is reporting this story about a "sinkhole" spewing fire in China. It took me about 20 seconds to figure this out (being where I am in the world).

While it may look like a volcanic vent, China is not particularly volcanically active and does NOT have close to the surface vulcanism like this.

"sinkhole" of fire

But they do have lots of coal. The word "sinkhole" was a tip off too. This is an underground mine fire. The coal burns long, slow, and hot as hell, causing gas emissions, high temperatures at the surface and ground collapse.

However, simply following the link buried on the above-mentioned mystery mongering site (Strange Sounds) also noted this was the case. He chose not to mention that part. This is why you should not get your news from such sites that sound to apocalyptic to be true. They aren't. They make their money off your clicks.

Here is the original piece that was hijacked: Mysterious Sinkhole Spewing Fire Appears In China.

> Geologists and media have flocked to the desolate mountain since it appeared a few weeks ago. The heat blasting from the 'ring of fire' has been measured at 792C (1457F) from two metres away and is so intense that experts can't get close enough to determine how deep the hole is.
>
> The hill is not in a volcanic area, and experts from local geological bureau think the hole is caused by the layer of spontaneously combusted coal underneath the ground, which leads the surface layer to collapse.

Bingo. There's no real mystery here. It's not even news. They have known about this situation for a while.

You can visit an active mine fire in Centralia, PA. But it doesn't look like the above, it's a bit too deep but the place was said to have inspired the film Silent Hill, based on the video game.

1 comment for "Fire sinkhole story shows how mystery mongering site gets your 'click'"

1. Abel Undercity
April 13, 2015 at 1:11 PM

"Silent Hill" was the first thing I thought of.

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Firefighters discover parrots made calls for help in burning home

upi.com

Firefighters said they heard calls of "Help!" and "Fire!" before rushing in to save what they thought would be human beings.

By Fred Lambert | April 19, 2015 at 6:24 PM

BOISE, Idaho, April 19 (UPI) -- Firefighters responding to screams for assistance in a burning Idaho home said they thought they were saving people but instead rescued a group of parrots.

Emergency crews first heard the pleas for help as they approached the outside of the residence in Boise.

"What was actually recorded was them saying 'fire, fire,' " Victor Islas with the Middleton Fire Department told KBOI. "That's what we got. 'Help. Fire.' Yeah. It's a smart bird, smart bird. So there was actually nobody besides the birds inside the house."

The birds were removed and given oxygen. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Crews told reporters the parrots must have been trained to issue warnings.

In 2008 a parrot reportedly saved the life of a choking 2-year-old girl in Denver, Colo., when it began screaming the words "mama" and "baby," alerting a babysitter.

In January of last year a couple from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said their pet parrot saved their lives by warning them that their house was on fire.

One month later, a parrot in India reportedly helped identify its owner's killer by screeching whenever the suspect's name was mentioned.

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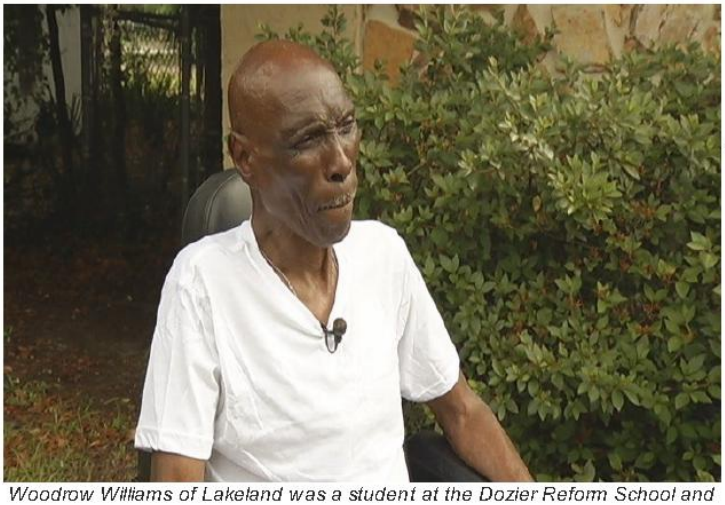
Former student: Some Dozier Reform School boys were fed to hogs

TAMPA –

baynews9.com

Former student: Some Dozier Reform School boys were fed to hogs



Woodrow Williams of Lakeland was a student at the Dozier Reform School and later worked at the school. He says he knows what happened to some of the boys who ran away and were never found. (Video still)

Woodrow Williams of Lakeland was a student at the Dozier Reform School and later worked at the school. He says he knows what happened to some of the boys who ran away and were never found. (Video still)

By Dalia Dangerfield, Reporter
Last Updated: Saturday, April 18, 2015

USF researchers have returned after another trip to the former Dozier Reform School in Marianna.

So far, they've uncovered 55 graves, but one former student believes there's a lot more to find on the grounds.

After being sent to the reform school for stealing an antenna, Woodrow Williams of Lakeland worked at the Dozier home in the 1950s, he says. His job included cleaning the house.

Because of his time inside the home, Williams said he has inside knowledge of conversations between administrators. He said he heard officials talk about dumping students in a hog pen and other areas of the school after they tried to run away.

"We all knew that when they ran away, when they disappeared, we all knew what was going on," said Williams, who is now 72.

Williams said USF researchers should look beyond the Boot Hill Cemetery and the unmarked graves. Then there are others, Williams said, who will never be discovered.

"A lot of the boys you're not going to find because believe it or not, a lot of the boys were fed to the hogs," Williams said.

USF researchers said they've spoken with Williams about his time at Dozier.

But at this point, researchers said Williams hasn't been able to help them locate any additional graves.

Bright House Networks | ©2015 Bay News 9. All rights reserved.

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Fresno movie theater looks for ghost hot spots

examiner.com

April 18, 2015 1:34 PM MST

Electronic equipment has been dusted off and warmed up for a May 1 ghost hunt in Fresno. Promotional photo courtesy of Warnors Center

If you've ever heard something other than drums going thump in the night while visiting Warnors Theatre in Fresno, maybe it's time to look for ghosts. The theater will sponsor a hunt for ghosts on May 1 under the leadership of a group of paranormal busters.

Beginning at 8 p.m., theater visitors will be led to hot spots in the theater where theater personnel say they have experienced activity that signals the presence of ghosts. Among the activities planned is learning to use electronic equipment to detect paranormal activity, as well as get a good look at parts of the theater the public doesn't usually see.

Visitors are invited to bring cameras, voice recorders, and flashlights. About 80 reservations for the night will be accepted.

Young people ages 14-17 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are available for $35 each on the theater website. The theater is located at 1400 Fulton St. in Fesno. The vintage theater shows classic movies, concerts and a variety of other types of events. Frank's Place, a venue on the ground floor of Warnors Center, is in the style of a nightclub, and is frequently used for receptions, catered events, and smaller music performances. The Star Palace Ballroom is on the second floor. The ballroom includes a stage, dance floor, dressing rooms and a bar.

The theater was first built in 1928. At 2,000 seats, it was one of the larger movie theaters in the Central Valley during the 1920s. One of its features is a huge pipe organ with four manual keyboards and more than a thousand pipes. The organ was intended to be used during the showing of silent movies.

"There be much more than ghosts here..."

April 11, 2015 3:11 PM MST
http://www.examiner.com/review/there-be-much-more-than-ghosts-here

From Landfill to Hallowed Ground

From Landfill to Hallowed Ground (March 2015) doesn't advertise itself as a book about hauntings, but its subject matter succeeds in doing just that. There are also some actual ghost stories inside.

Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images

Retired NYPD Lt Frank Marra relates a story that only a direct witness could tell. He was one of many intrepid souls who was given the vital but unenviable task of sifting through the rubble of the Twin Towers post 911 for evidence and human remains. Marra relies on the first hand accounts of the colleagues with whom he worked, so the reporting is straightforward, occasionally graphic with very little hyperbole. These are real stories about regular people performing one of the most difficult of functions, i.e. bearing witness to horror while remaining sane and compassionate.

That tone of steady reality is what brings such stark clarity to the rather unexpected and startling accounts of what appear to be genuine 'ghostly' occurrences that were reported by numerous individuals who worked their way through the 911 rubble, which was relocated to the Fresh Kills landfill site. For the author, the fact that the 'ghosts' appeared in relocated rubble is proof that "traveled" with the debris itself.

Marra, describes how he and several other workers saw clearly the figure of an African American woman who was dressed as Red Cross workers would have in World War II. He was surprised to find out that other workers reported additional experiences of dark

"shadows" masses or figures that would seem to move through the debris.

Apparently, there have been numerous accounts of **ghostly visitations**, detected **EVP (electronic voice phenomena)**, and other **strange sounds emanating** from the site of the disaster itself. There have also been reports by individuals who claimed to have been **helped by mysterious strangers** who then disappeared as they were trying to escape the scene.

These kinds of accounts are quite common in any reported disaster, as are **reports of ghostly visitations by victims** to their surviving loved ones and stories of premonitions or intuitions that led still others to avoid the Twin Towers that fateful day.

That's part of what makes Marra's few remarks on ghostly visitation so interesting. They are not the point of the book. Marra is simply interested in recording the experiences of those people who contributed to putting all the various "ghosts" of the Twin Towers to rest, in a sense. He has no paranormal axe to grind; these ghostly experiences were simply part and parcel of the entire nightmare. In a way, it would make even less sense if no one had seen anything, and yet, oddly, some wouldn't question that at all.

In the end, one leaves the book wishing for more, as strange as that sounds. Working under these conditions, touching this level of destruction and anguish, knowing that others, literally thousands of others, are awaiting the results of your search, creates its own sense of ineffability. What the searchers did was very simple and repetitive, physically and emotionally taxing. They tell their stories here, and include their own moments when variations on the inexplicable met. We are left to/in wonder.

Funeral is go! Mourners dress as Thunderbirds and other dead funny last wishes

mirror.co.uk

Thunderbirds were go at a funeral when mourners were asked to wear outfits from the much-loved show.

The request for people to dress as Virgil Tracy and his family was one of several strange demands made to planners by the about-to-be dearly departed.

Another service was carried out entirely in song and an elderly woman had a waving satin glove to gesture goodbye to mourners as her coffin disappeared.

A Simon Cowell fan was buried with a framed photo of the X Factor judge and one man had his ashes put in fireworks, Perfect Choice Funeral Plans found.

One client had an entirely 'singing service' - with music ringing in the ears of the congregation as she made her way to the after-life.

Another demanded Ricky Martin's No1 hit 'Living La Vida Loca' - 'Living the Crazy Life' in Spanish - played as her coffin disappeared at the crematorium.

Other mourners watched a waving satin glove - complete with a Diamante bracelet - the final request of an old lady for her disappearing coffin.

A dog lover was buried with the ashes of her favourite pet, while one man left this life like a rocket - and had his ashes turned into fireworks.

Sadly, Paradise was Lost permanently for a poetry lover.

He asked for the entire volumes of John Milton's famous work to be read from start to finish at his funeral.

A short reading was agreed when it was realised that it could take, well, a life time.

Alan Puxley, of Salisbury-based Will Case Funeral Directors, has had to cater for a 'range of requests' down the years.

He said: "We do everything we can to help, as long as it is legal!

"More people are pre-arranging their funerals to reduce the burden and worry for their families.

"As strange as the requests may be sometimes, this is usually a real source of comfort at the time of need and give the service some personality."

Perfect Choice Funerals spokeswoman Emma Simpson told how a traditional funeral was not always what customers wanted.

“Like most things in life, it is not a one-size-fits-all,” she added.

“From music choices to coffin styles, more and more people want to put their own stamp on their final send off.

“We have encountered moving, beautiful and touching funeral plans which have really tugged on the heartstrings.

“But we have had some bizarre requests as well.”

Top 10 wacky funeral requests:

1. To be buried with a framed picture of Simon Cowell!
2. All mourners wear Thunderbirds outfits.
3. The entire funeral service in song.
4. John Milton’s Paradise Lost read in full.
5. Ricki Martin’s Livin’ La Vida Loca played.
6. A waving satin glove with Diamante bracelet hovering above the coffin at the end of the service.
7. Re-housing the deceased’s cat.
8. The final journey - a cardboard coffin on the back of a tractor.
9. Ashes to Fireworks: Ashes turned into fireworks for a display afterwards.
10. A dog lover buried with the ashes of her dog, who had passed away the year before.

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Funeral procession stops to thwart robbery

6abc.com

A funeral procession in Texas stopped when a mourner saw a man attacking an elderly woman.

Friday, April 10, 2015 07:19AM

WPVI A funeral procession in Texas stopped when a mourner saw a man attacking an elderly woman.

The mourners say they were driving slowly when they saw the attack at a bus stop.

They got out of their cars and tackled the suspect to the ground.

Cell phone video shows them holding the suspect as he held onto the elderly woman's purse.

Police eventually came and arrested the man.

He's charged with aggravated robbery.

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Georgia Principal Blames 'Devil' For Racist Remarks

thedailybeast.com

Kate Briquelet

Speak of the Devil

05.10.154:02 PM ET

In the wake of a national backlash over comments singling out black students as 'rude,' Nancy Gordeuk says Satan is to blame.

A Georgia principal catching hell over racist comments she made at a graduation ceremony offered one explanation: The devil made her do it.

Nancy Gordeuk, founder of TNT Academy in Stone Mountain, was captured on camera Friday trying to get the crowd to listen to the valedictorian, who she skipped during the program and who spoke at the end of the ceremony.

But when the audience begins to file out, Gordeuk, who is white, says: "You people are being so rude, to not listen to this speech. It was my fault that we missed it in the program."

Amid the hubbub, Gordeuk ranted, "Look who's leaving—all the black people."

> Yo....wow pic.twitter.com/4ISp9ecl0U
>
> — Henn Griffey Jr. (@IAMKRIS24) May 9, 2015

Shortly after videos of the event went viral, Gordeuk apologized in an e-mail to parents.

"A terrible mistake on my part of the graduation ceremony on Friday night," Gordeuk wrote, according to WXIA in Atlanta. "The devil was in the house and came out from my mouth. I deeply apologize for my racist comment and hope that forgiveness in in your hearts."

But parents weren't buying her excuse.

"She needs to get out of that field of being a teacher or a motivator. She doesn't need to be in that field at all," one mother, Shakel Forman, told WXIA.

Another angry mom told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that the school's 48 graduates had to pay up to $300 for the graduation ceremony, held at a local church, and which students say was ruined by Gordeuk.

One attendee, Brooklyn Jacobs, said she began filming the incident because of Gordeuk's comments leading up to the explosive remarks. Minutes before, Gordeuk lashed out at one man in the crowd for taking photos, calling him a "goober" and a "coward" in front of the audience.

"We were just trying to get her being rude. It was something un-normal like you don't see that on a regular basis," Jacobs told WSB-TV.

"She named only black people. She didn't say, 'Oh look at the Caucasians leaving, look at the Indians leaving.' She said blacks," Jacobs fumed.

Gordeuk told a WSB-TV reporter she's not racist—she was just frustrated that the valedictorian's speech was ignored after she had forgotten to introduce the student.

"So I introduced him, he started speaking, then a man, he was black, came across carrying his tablet back and forth filming the students in front," Gordeuk told the TV station, adding that she called security on the shutterbug.

"Who I saw leaving were black people so that's where the statement came from, 'look who's leaving, all the black people.'"

A man believed to be Gordeuk's son took to Facebook on Saturday to defend his embattled mom—or at least play devil's advocate.

"If anyone has somthing [sic] to say about my mom and how she ran her graduation come say it to my face," he wrote and added a Georgia address.

"What was rude wad somone [sic] standing up during the ceremony and walking around with a tablet .... my moma not racist one bit she's done nothing but help kids so yall need to get stories straight," Travis Gordeuk added.

On social media, commenters are calling for Gordeuk's resignation and questioning how she could be an educator in the first place.

Gordeuk founded TNT Academy as a "non-traditional educational center" for middle- and high-schoolers, according to the private school's website. It provides independent studies for students to earn their diplomas.

The principal has taught for 34 years, according to the website, including at private and Christian schools.

"I decided to form TNT Academy for those students that need a one-on-one or small group setting," Gordeuk wrote on the school website. "TNT captures the needs of public school students that are bored in a classroom and are starting to get into trouble."

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Ghost attacks in Hanover haunted house

fox43.com

Posted 10:30 PM, July 25, 2014, by Katie KyrosUpdated at 02:23pm, August 4, 2014

A home in Hanover, York County will be featured on a national TV show on Saturday. The homeowners say their house is severely haunted, with multiple ghosts and other entities.

Homeowner DeAnna Simpson says they've lived in the home for seven years, and put everything they had into buying it. She says she and her husband didn't find out it was haunted until soon after they moved in.

"We put everything into this house," says Simpson. "And we do want to move, but we would have to list it at such a price where we could recoup what we put in."

Simpson has ghostly photos, as well as photos from something that scratches people who come inside. She also has audio recordings of voices, children laughing, and dogs barking that were not in the house.

"Five plus," she says of the number of ghosts in the house. "I have some here that are protecting me, some women here that are protecting me, but the majority are bad, dark forces, inhuman."

Simpson says one of the entities in the house is a demon. It appears in a photo as a 7-foot-tall shadow figure. While we were there, Simpson recorded orbs on her cell phone camera and it caught a clip of a shadowy hand reaching out.

When FOX43's cameras went inside, our photojournalist Nick Petrillo felt his hand burning and saw a scratch on his wrist. Simpson put Holy water on him.

"Because you're telling the story," she says. "Because you're putting it out there, because they don't want– that is there, I'm just telling you, right now that is their way of a warning.

Simpson has invited priests, paranormal researchers and mediums into the home. The house will be on "The Dead Files" on the Travel Channel on Saturday. She says the crew turned up evidence of grisly deaths that took place there.

WATCH the full episode from "The Dead Files"

- **GhostLogic**

  White people still investigating like in a horror movie…

  July 30, 2014 at 2:44 PM

  - **UseCommonSense**

    Lmao that was the first thing i thought when watching this. Have to agree with u on that.

    July 30, 2014 at 9:07 PM

- **may yang**

  Hi my name is May….i am hmong..i know how you can get them out is….to trow alot of red corns seeds everywhere in the house and hung alot of red corns all on the door…and also bruning alot of dry very hot asain papers all in all the room…to get them out of the house because they can stand the smell. ..of it…they be alot of sneezing and coughing….but make sure you both put something cover your month so you wont be doing those things okay and find out if there is any

hmong people live in your town or anywhere close by state… bring the person who knows how to get the ghost out…to help you… then your family will be fine….or the bouda people..too..

hope you see this.. and try to do it… its easy… just tell them to leave or you do again every day untill they leave… you tell them its your house now… so them to go find a new place and leave you all alone….thats what you say to them…do this every day as much as you can intell they leave… hope you will try this…

need anythings eles just email me thanks..

a friend who like to help you out..

May Yang .

July 30, 2014 at 8:23 PM

- **phsychologist4u**

  LOOOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

  August 6, 2014 at 2:31 PM

- **Leti**

I used to like to watch the Ghost Hunter shows many years ago right before I went to bed. Then one time, the entity went toward the camera and the camera man dropped it. I reflexively turned off the tv with the remote. I felt a burning on my leg. I looked down and noticed I got scratched and will never watch those again. I figure, those things are entities (energy) and can probably travel through the wires like electricity. I heard from people who used to delve in stuff like this say those demons are getting more and more brazen because of how bad society is becoming with the New Age spirituality, decline of morals. etc. We're hearing more about this. Look up 'Indiana haunting', and 'Eerie demon possessed house', and '3 Americans possessed in Mexico playing the Quija board'. Watching this gave me the creeps. Pray, pray, pray. Look up 'binding prayers." (DO NOT play with Quija Boards ever).

July 31, 2014 at 12:11 AM

- **Jamie Nicole**

Nice try Fox43! Your story is fake fake fake.

The lack of fear in your reporters demeanor said it was all staged

Pathetic

July 31, 2014 at 2:03 AM
- Pingback: The Haunting In Hanover: Woman claims Haunting and Reporters Freak Out What They Find : These Christian Times

- **susan**

Hello I have some tips for her. make rules for the spirits and dont let alot of investigators in your home that causes more activity. I live in a 100 year old home with three spirits but there are also others that travel through my home . I also have the dark shadow in my living room. but we ignore them for the most. I let them know that this is my home now. I know some dont believe but unfortunately they do exist

August 2, 2014 at 11:56 AM

- **Billy Blymyer**

This story and the news anchors say Hanover York County yet the house has a basement and they say Hanover Pennsylvania. Was this a ploy just to get locals to watch?

August 2, 2014 at 8:33 PM

  - **Andrea**

  Hanover is in York County, dumbass!

  August 10, 2014 at 6:46 PM

- **Billy Blymyer**

Hanover Pennsylvania not York county what up with that? Just a ploy to get us to watch?

August 2, 2014 at 8:37 PM

- **Dianacc89**

You clearly see a shadowy figure move in the background at around 3:30. I highly doubt it's any of the crew moving because the light is shining only on the lady owner of the house...and she doesn't move along with the shadow. Creepy.

August 6, 2014 at 6:42 AM

- **dan**

If they are in need of help, they can get in touch with me and we can make arrangements for me to come out and remove this issue they are having. contact me @ daniel_arnwine@yahoo.com or on fb bye the dame name.

August 6, 2014 at 11:44 AM

- **Sam**

Did we really need to see the reporter's bra for a story about an allegedly haunted house? I mean, come on. You shoot two stand-ups and it is PAINFULLY obvious in both that the reporter is inappropriately dressed and Fox43 decides to air the stand-ups anyway? Where is your quality control? Someone talk to Katie – she has potential but that was a train wreck.

August 6, 2014 at 2:29 PM

- **saira**

Beyond Science: Search the word “Jinn” on Google and you will find all about it. Briefly there are 3 kinds of creation. 1) Humans 2) Angels 3) Jin or Jinn. Jin is Arabic terminology for so called Ghost but they have a life, rules and regulations. There are people who have studied them and they can communicate with them if needed. Search for “Jin” or “Jinn” on Google and you will find about them.

August 7, 2014 at 8:38 PM

- **saira**

Beyond Science: Search the word "Jinn" on Google and you will find all about it. Briefly there are 3 kinds of creation. 1) Humans 2) Angels 3) Jin or Jinn. Jin is Arabic terminology for so called Ghost but they have a life, rules and regulations. There are people who have studied them and they can communicate with them if needed. Search for "Jin" or "Jinn" on Google and you will find about them.

August 7, 2014 at 8:41 PM

- **Melissa**

thats really just a sad sad plug

July 27, 2014 at 8:16 PM

- **candleswithtreasures**

Thanks! :)

July 27, 2014 at 8:44 PM

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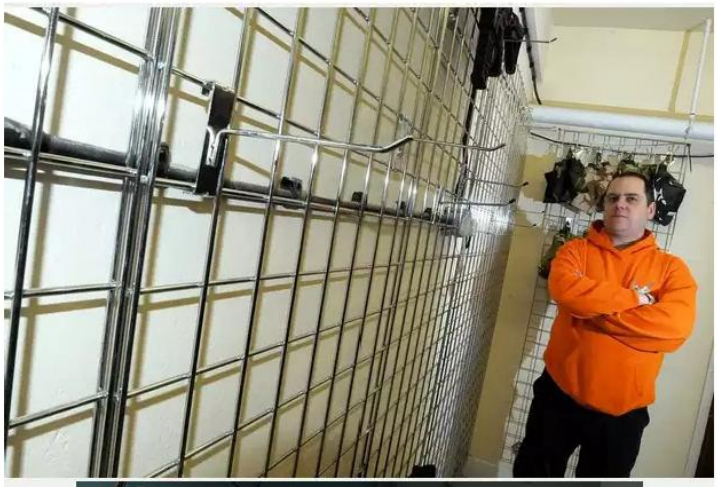
Ghost hunters hear bumps in the night: it's burglars raiding Derby store for imitation firearms

April 22nd 2015

derbytelegraph.co.uk

By Derby Telegraph | Posted: April 20, 2015



• Main picture, Crafty's Aircraft owner Jonathan Craft with the bare racking where his realistic imitation guns were stored before the raid. Above, paranormal investigators Mark Whyatt, left, and Nick Donaldson.

GHOST hunters who staked out a building in search of spooky goings-on came face-to-face with shadowy figures of a very different kind – burglars.

But paranormal investigator Mark Whyatt was unfazed by the unexpected guests and bravely confronted the pair, kicking out at them as they fled.

The burglars had broken into Crafty's Airsoft Store, in the city, where Derby Paranormal Investigators were holding an overnight event on Saturday to investigate spooky goings-on, including odd noises.

The store in Full Street sells realistic imitation guns, known as RIFs, for shooting games to buyers who have the proper certification.

Mr Whyatt said it was about 4am yesterday, the investigation had finished and everyone had left apart from himself and his colleague, Nick Donaldson, who were packing up when they heard voices.

The door to the shop was locked but they shone their torches through the glass panels and saw two figures run out of the front door. "I bolted to the front door of the building and kicked both of them as they were riding off on their bikes," said Mr Whyatt.

His kicks failed to make them lose their balance, but he said the second one would certainly

be left with a bruise on his leg.

Mr Whyatt, who has previously worked in security, said: "They were all in black and both had balaclava-like masks on and were carrying two large bags."

Jonathan Craft, the owner of the store, said stolen goods were recovered around the building, but he reckoned five or six imitation guns were still missing.

The 33-year-old said: "The thieves were very brave to do what they did because the paranormal investigators were clearly in there, turning the lights on and off and things like that.

"They used a tomahawk to break in through the fire doors and then went for some of the guns on the wall as well as in the drawers.

"Some of the stolen guns were found outside, including near the bins behind the Bikeworks, along with the tomahawk – which hopefully police can get some evidence off.

"But these guys do need to be found because those replicas are convincing and most people would not be able to tell the difference between them and a real gun."

Mr Craft has run Crafty's Airsoft Store for two years and moved from Abbey Street to Full Street in September last year.

He said: "We've had burglar alarms go off in the past but not an actual break-in like this.

"It seems like they knew what they were doing. The damage is not too bad, though – mainly the doors and the till."

Police confirmed the incident was reported to them through a 999 call on Sunday at about 4.15am.

Anyone who saw the incident, or knows the whereabouts of the stolen imitation firearms, is asked to call police on 101.

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Ghost of a dog at Ruthin Gaol spotted on photo

dailypost.co.uk

- 15:05, 7 May 2015

Ghosthunter says she can see a corgi in "orb" on steps of prison, which closed in 1916 - can you see it in this photograph?

Julie Ashton

Can you see the shape of a dog in the orb on these steps at Ruthin Gaol?

A ghost hunter claims she can see the spectre of a dog in a photograph taken at a North Wales prison.

Julie Ashton, 55, was looking back at her snaps of a visit to Ruthin Gaol a year ago when she spotted an “orb” on the steps.

Upon closer inspection the housewife, a ghost hunter for six years, could see the outline of a dog.

Julie, who lives in Wythenshawe in Manchester, visited the prison last year with the Manchester Paranormal Team.

Can you see the shape of a dog in the orb?

Julie Ashton

The close up of the orb at Ruthin Gaol

She said: “We heard a few bangs and stuff upstairs where prisoners were kept.

“Then we went to the yard where the prisoners were taken for a walk and I took a load of photographs.

“I was looking at them last week because we’re going on another ghost hunt and I saw this thing in the middle of the photo on the steps, called an orb.

“They can be caused by dust but when I looked closer I could definitely see a corgi. “

Julie showed the picture to her friends on Facebook, who agreed a dog could be seen.

The 55 year old said online research had revealed the ghost of a dog has reportedly been seen around the grounds of the prison, which closed in 1916.

According to paranormal website www.hauntedrooms.co.uk.: “The reports of paranormal activity are rife, and are often reported by staff and guests alike throughout the day as well as night.”

However Julie did not know anything about the prison before her visit roughly a year ago.

She said: “I don’t want to have my experience influenced by anything which I’ve read so I just go in and see for myself.”

The amateur ghost hunter has also visited Bodelwyddan Castle but did not get any definitive results.

She added: “There was bangs heard but we didn’t hear anything for certain.”

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Ghost sightings at beauty-spot: Here are Derby's top ten haunted hot spots

April 22nd 2015

derbytelegraph.co.uk

By cherylhague | Posted: January 26, 2015

AS reports that a beauty-spot over the Derbysire border is being plagued by ghostly sightings of the Slender Man, we have can reveal Derby's most haunted hot-spots.

The 8ft stick-thin spectre has been spotted by several terrified residents of Cannock Chase in Staffordshire over the last month.

Locals have reported seeing the 'lean, shadowy spirit' with 'blood red eyes' and wearing Victorian dress in the forest as well as their homes.

Each of the chilling close encounters took place in the small mining town of Cannock, which has a history of supernatural sightings.

Here are the most haunted place in Derby:

GHOST PICTURE: This photograph was taken in Derby and appears to show the ghostly figure of a 17th century woman - at one of the county's most haunted hotspots.

The image was captured by Rob Spacey, of Derby, during a night out at The Old Bell Hotel in Derby which is listed as one of the most haunted hotels in the UK.

He explained: "A friend of mine works in the Sadlergate pub which is renowned for being haunted.

"There is a story that a particular corner of the pub is haunted by a ghost of a '17th century wench'.

"Just before locking up time when everyone had left we took a photograph of the corner not knowing at the time the image which had been captured."

It is believed the photograph shows 'Mabel the Linen Maid' - one of the many ghosts believed to haunt the building.

Mabel is understood to have taken her own life in Room 6 after finding out she was pregnant to her lover who had died in some war.

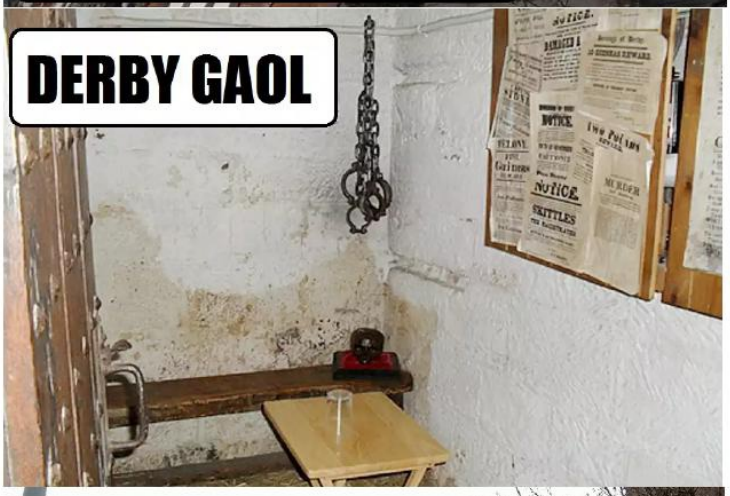
Guests that have booked that room for the night have found their clothes neatly folded at the bottom of their bed, thinking that someone had been in their room when they were asleep, they complained to the landlord only to be told that the staff would not have done this.

Here we reveal the top ten most haunted hotspots in Derbyshire.

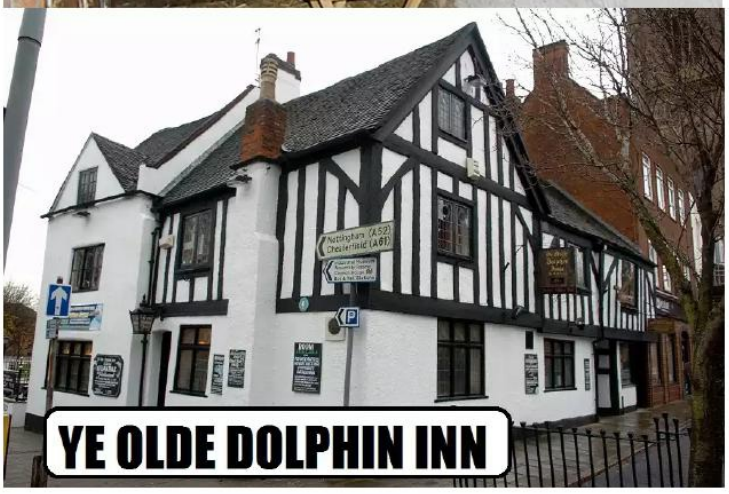
As well as 'Mabel the Linen Maid' the former coaching inn is believed to house many ghosts

and a poltergeist in the dining room has been known to throw things around. A serving girl has been seen on many occasions dressed in 18th century clothes and is believed to have been murdered in 1745.

The Friar Gate building which housed condemned prisoners is said to have many ghosts – with apparitions appearing in the old cells and passageways of the building. Witnesses have reported hearing eerie banging and scraping noises.



In the 18th century a doctor is said to have had a body secretly delivered by body-snatchers which he began to dissect - only for the women to wake up from a coma and run around the cellar screaming before dying. Her screams can still be heard. A blue lady who had an affair with Dick Turpin and a child on the stairs are also said to appear.



A grey lady is said to wander the castle and an apparition of a man has been seen – who looks like a gamekeeper or gardener. The ghost of a maid has also been spotted in the kitchen area who killed herself after finding she was pregnant out of wedlock.

A young girl called Wilhelmina Fitzherbert who died in 1862 when her nightdress caught fire is said to haunt the hall as well as a man dressed in black who appears in the cellar. Strange phantom noises have been heard and a bed has been known to shake of its own accord at night

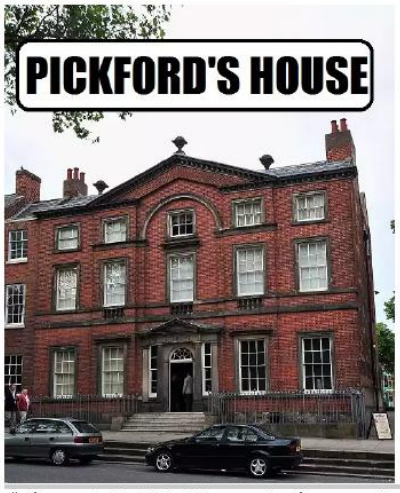
In the 18th century Robert Revell, the Squire, was said to have been murdered in his own bed by two servants and guests have reported hearing furniture moving when the room is empty. Three apparitions of children in 18th century costumes are also seen at dusk in the garden.

Former staff members have reported seeing a figure around the morgue area. It is believed to be a Roman soldier who was killed nearby as the site was built on an ancient roman road.

There are several reported sightings of a female ghostly presence in the kitchen area and a child appears in a fireplace before disappearing.

The tunnels beneath are said to be haunted by ghosts including that of Alice Wheeldon. She was put on trial in 1918 for plotting to kill the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George but it came to light she had been set up.

She had been marched along the tunnels to her court case and now supposedly walks through them in the afterlife.



A man who appears to be a gardener is said to wander around the outside of the Friar Gate building and inside the house a child - thought to be one of the Pickford family - is seen dancing around. Strange noises are also heard from the kitchen area.

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A page (49r) of "The Black Book of Carmarthen" showing the stylized drawing of a dog and text in the margins. (National Library of Wales)

Ghostly faces and lines of verse previously invisible to the naked eye have been uncovered in the oldest surviving medieval manuscript written entirely in Welsh.

"The Black Book of Carmarthen," dating to 1250, contains texts from the ninth through 12th centuries, including some of the earliest references to Arthur and Merlin.

"It's easy to think we know all we can know about a manuscript like the 'Black Book,' but to see these ghosts from the past brought back to life in front of our eyes has been incredibly exciting," Myriah Williams, a doctoral student at the University of Cambridge, said in a statement. "The drawings and verse that we're in the process of recovering demonstrate the value of giving these books another look." [See Images of the Black Book and Ghostly Faces]

In 1904, Sir John Williams, the founder of the National Library of Wales, bought the book, which measures 6.7 by 5 inches. Only recently did Myriah Williams and Paul Russell, a professor at Cambridge's department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (ASNC), examine the pages of the book.

"The margins of manuscripts often contain medieval and early modern reactions to the text, and these can cast light on what our ancestors thought about what they were reading," Williams explained. "The 'Black Book' was particularly heavily annotated before the end of the 16th century."

Williams and Russell said they think a man named Jaspar Gryffyth, a 16th-century owner of the book who copied his name in Hebrew onto the book, likely erased such "reactions." These verses and doodles would've been added to the manuscript over centuries as it was passed from one owner to another. "He fits the time frame for the erasures, which we know would have been in the late 16th century, but we can only speculate that he might have been the one to take it upon himself to 'cleanse' the manuscript," Williams told Live Science in an email.

Using UV light and photo-editing software, Williams and Russell revealed glimpses of some of the erased doodles. For instance, page fol. 39v of the newly visible work includes ghostly faces and a line of text accompanying them, which date to the 14th or 15th century, Williams said. On the following page, fol. 40v, a full verse, possibly dating to the 13th century, came to light. "There is one more drawing so far that we are still working on," Williams said.

"What we have discovered may only be the tip of the iceberg in terms of what can be discovered as imaging techniques are enhanced," Russell said in the statement. "The manuscript is extremely valuable and incredibly important — yet there may still be so much we don't know about it." [10 Words in Medieval Voynich Manuscript Decoded]

Scientists think a single scribe collected and recorded the book's contents, ranging from religious verse to different types of poetry, over that individual's lifetime. The text in the 54-page book changes from large script written on alternating ruled lines of vellum to later pages with much smaller lettering and lines that are much closer together.

Williams, who studied the manuscript for her doctoral dissertation, has some favorite pages and verses, she said. Her favorite page, fol. 49r, holds various styles and layouts, along with an example of the scribe's penchant for writing on the book's margins. "It also contains a fantastic stylized image of a dog, possibly a greyhound," Williams said, adding that the book's scribe likely made the drawing. Two verses were also added, likely by this scribe, on the right margin of 49r.

"I am also fond of the central poem of this page, a short series of verses cursing a goose for pulling out the eye of Gwallawg, the figure after whom the poem has been named by scholars," Williams said.

In another entry, the legendary hero Arthur describes the virtues of his men in order to gain entrance to a court, the researchers noted. Two prophetic poems are attributed to the famed Merlin, as well, with the first poem of the book a conversation between him and Welsh poet Taliesin.

And in a text entitled "Englynion y Beddau" (or "Stanzas of the Graves"), a narrator claims to know where some 80 warriors are buried.

Williams said she hopes to continue to improve the reading of the newly revealed work on page fol. 40v and to learn more about the scribe's process of collecting works for the book. "Furthermore, I hope that I can use the information that we have gained from the margins and gaps to continue to develop a picture of the life of the 'Black Book' after the 'Black Book' scribe had completed his work," Williams said.

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Ghostly figure spotted on real estate listing photo

examiner.com

Ghostly figure spotted on real estate listing photo
Photo courtesy of Realtor.com

A Michigan woman was browsing real estate properties this week when she noticed an eerie figure in one of the listing photos. The potentially haunted house is for sale in Saginaw Valley and listed on Realtor.com.

According to an online Realtor.com listing, the 5-bedroom, 2,372 square foot home is located on 710 N Franklin Street, in Saginaw, Michigan and is on the market for $59.900. There are thirty-one photos of the property and in the seventh image, a black figure appears to be peaking around the corner of a wall.

Melissa Duty was looking through real estate listings on Realtor.com in the Saginaw area when she found a strange photo in one of the listings. She posted the photo on a paranormal discussion group on Facebook.

A few people believe that the figure in the photo is actually a ghost. Some folks think that there is a simple explanation such as an article of clothing hanging on a coat rack that is creating the illusion of a figure.

What exactly is the eerie anomaly in the photo? Is it a hoax? Could it actually be a ghost or just a coat on a hanger? Sound off with opinions in the comment section below.

Ghostly goings-on at Doncaster aircraft museum after pilot is spotted

12:00Tuesday 14 April 2015

The public are invited to join a team of ghost hunters for a spooky night at The South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum.

Members of the Simply Ghost Nights are urging people with an interest in the paranormal to join them at the tourist attraction in Dakota Road, Doncaster.

And those who attend the special night on Saturday, April 18, could be in for a real fright.

Stuart Dawson, of Simply Ghost Nights, said: “On a previous ghost hunt at museum we all saw the solid manifestation of a pilot.”

The event will take place between 9pm and 3am. Tickets are £39 each available from 0843 289 1215.

Email: editorial@doncastertoday.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 819111

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Investigating the ghosts of the legendary Stanley Hotel

By Mark Zimmerman Special to OnMilwaukee.com

onmilwaukee.com

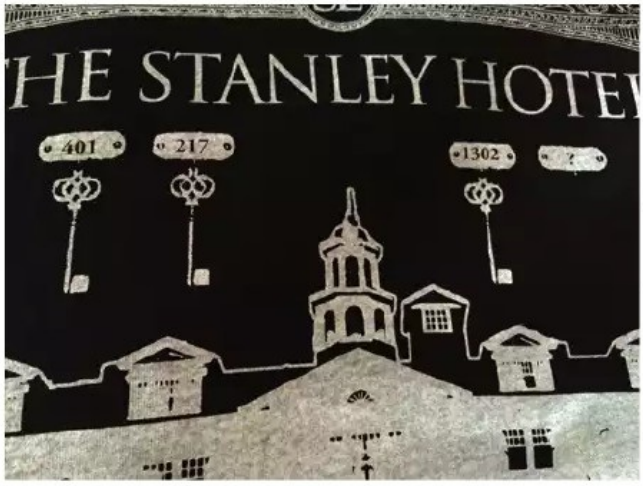
Thanks to "The Shining," The Stanley Hotel is one of the country's most famous hotels. (Photo: Flickr/Neil Staeck)

Investigating the ghosts of the legendary Stanley Hotel

Published May 7, 2015 at 1:16 p.m.

ESTES PARK, COLO. – All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. That's the line Jack Torrance writes over and over and over again in Stephen King's 1977 horror classic "The Shining" before he loses his mind and succumbs to murderous thoughts against his family.

But before Jack Nicholson ever portrayed King's protagonist, before the words "Heeeeeeeere's Johnny!" were ever muttered onscreen, and before images and dialogue from Stanley Kubrick's 1980 film adaptation ever took root into the annals of film history, there was a seed planted at the Stanley Hotel in majestic Estes Park, Colo.



The story goes that while vacationing in the Boulder area in 1974, King and his wife opted to spend a night at the Stanley as its staff prepared to close the hotel down for the impending winter season. Though claims of the paranormal surrounded the hotel, King claims it was actually the dreams he had while staying there – fire hoses coming to life and chasing his son down the hotel's hallways and the like – and the eerie experience of being the hotel's only guests that truly deserve the credit for inspiring the story.

Recently, my sister and I attended a Strange Escapes event entitled "Ghosts of the Stanley Hotel," which was hosted by "Ghost Hunters" alumnus Amy Bruni. Since leaving the show, Bruni has coupled her event coordination and ghost hunting backgrounds to provide investigation opportunities at some of the most haunted locations across the country, complete with lectures from experts in the paranormal field, television personalities and authors.

The itinerary for the event synthesized entertainment value, interesting presentations and

paranormal investigation opportunities as attendees were treated to appearances by individuals from all walks of paranormal life: Grant Wilson (The Atlantic Paranormal Society, or T.A.P.S., co-founder and "Ghost Hunters" alumnus), Britt Griffith ("Ghost Hunters" alumnus), Adam Berry ("Ghost Hunters" alumnus), Chip Coffey (psychic, medium and spiritual counselor), Robert Murch (Ouija board expert), John Tenney (anomalistic and occult phenomena expert), Mike Brody (comedian) and Aiden Sinclair (paranormal illusionist).

Very entertaining in sum, the highlight of the weekend for me was the investigation itself. Split into two groups on Saturday and Sunday nights, my sister and I were slated for the latter. We'd be investigating multiple locations scattered throughout the hotel grounds for about 45 minutes each. We were raring to go when it was our turn. We would start out on the fourth floor where the claims stated the spirits of children could be heard laughing and playing in the halls.

Our night started in Room 401. I have to admit: I was a bit nervous. I had never been on an investigation of this scale before, I was staying in the room next door, and I had seen the 2006 "Ghost Hunters" episode where Jason Hawes (current "Ghost Hunters" cast member and T.A.P.S. co-founder) had spent the night in this exact room and had a closet door open and shut on camera and a drinking glass shatter on his bedside table while he slept in the room.

Now my sister and I were here, in person, hoping for our own first-hand experiences. The backstory claimed that the spirit of a man named Lord Dunraven inhabited the room, an early owner of most of the land in Estes Park (which he used for his own personal wildlife preserve and hunting grounds). He had a particular fondness for the ladies both in life and after his death, and had made his presence known to hotel guests over the years since his passing.

It didn't take long for things to start happening.

Sitting patiently, my sister began to feel what she would later describe as "waves of rolling chills" that extended from her feet all the way up to her head, as well as the sensation that all of her hair was standing up on her head. Simultaneously, a fellow investigator's K-II meter (which measures electromagnetic frequency, or EMF) began to light up, denoting a change in the room's electromagnetic field (often considered a potential sign of a spirit using the available energy to manifest itself).

Moments later, a young man from a local T.A.P.S. affiliate entered the room from hallway and verbally acknowledged that the energy in the room felt heavy. We repeatedly asked Dunraven to give us a sign of his presence, and even though no doors opened and closed or glasses shattered, my sister's experience in the room was pretty cool. Paranormal or not, we were jacked, and the night was only beginning!

Down the hall in Room 418, my sister and I had our first encounter with an Ovilus, or "ghost box" or "spirit box." Considered by some to be the digital equivalent of a Ouija board, the

Ovilus "converts environmental readings into real words," which therefore allows "an intelligent entity to alter the environment in such a way that forces the Ovilus to 'speak' a response appropriately," according to the GhostStop website.

At one point, the Ovilus said "Dawn" (my sister's name) as well as "dime," which was a word/image that a fellow investigator had agreed to use as a trigger word to communicate with her recently deceased mother.

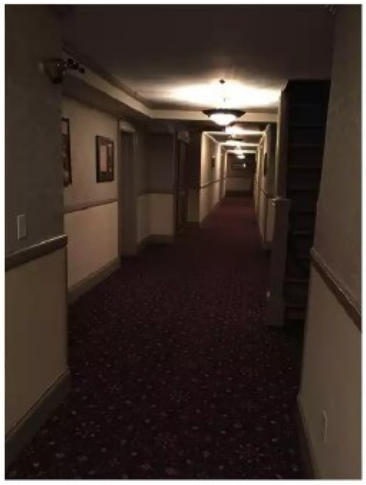
Soon we were out of the main hotel and into the balcony of the property's Music Hall. Once our group got settled in, we heard shuffling sounds from the stage and main floor. At one point, a mini Maglite flashlight, which was set up to turn on and off with an-ever-so-slight twist of its lamp head, turned on without assistance. This technique has been utilized on numerous episodes of "Ghost Hunters," yet continues to draw scrutiny from naysayers. Was a spirit in fact making contact, or was the battery simply completing the circuit and turning on the flashlight's beam? Who knows? I'm still not sure. But I've certainly never experienced a flashlight turning on by itself like that before. I chalked it up as another new experience in a weekend of new experiences.

But what happened next had to be the climax of our weekend at the Stanley Hotel. As our group shifted down to the basement of the Music Hall, my sister and I decided to separate from the larger group to check out an interior room with a door that a spirit named Lucy liked to close, and had already closed, several times so far that evening – even with a heavy, upholstered chair propped in front of it.

Dawn and I sat down with a handful of other investigators in the pitch-black room and began introducing ourselves to Lucy, asking her politely to shut the door if she was present. It wasn't long before she obliged. I was literally about four feet away from the doorway when, sure enough, the door began move away from the wall and toward the jamb, closing the door almost completely. Elated, we thanked Lucy for her efforts. Then we asked her to do it again, and after hearing rustling noises behind me and to my left, it happened again a second time.

Upping the ante, we put a chair in front of the door to see if we could get it to happen with the chair blocking the door's path, to no avail. A few minutes later, the group decided to try to get the door to close again without the chair to block its path, like it had two times prior. Moving the chair myself, I pushed the door tightly against the wall to ensure the door wasn't leaning forward, building momentum and closing due to some mechanical issue such as a faulty hinge. But I couldn't make it start a closing motion without a deliberate effort. Clearly something had to be shutting this door, right?

We asked Lucy a third time to please shut the door, and almost as if on command, the door began to shut again. About halfway between the completed motion, I yelled, "Slam it!" and that's exactly what happened. We experienced the door shutting a total of five times (a fourth time after asking Lucy to give us a sign she wanted us to leave, and the final time when the door closed behind us as we were leaving the room).



Next, Dawn and I used a Ouija board for the first time, using a combination of the planchette and an iPhone app called the "Spirit Story Box" (similar to the Ovilus) to contact a spirit named Gus who allegedly worked as a waiter at the Stanley Hotel – and perhaps even met his fate there.

Before long, we were off to famed room 217: the one that had King himself had stayed in, the one that had inspired King to write his book and the one that was the impetus for coming all this way in the first place.

Purportedly haunted by an extremely tidy chambermaid, the host investigators purposely littered random items across the bathroom floor in hopes that Mrs. Wilson would tidy up during our time there. Interestingly, my sister heard something in the bathroom almost immediately upon turning the lights out. It turns out that a photo taken before the lights were turned out would show the items had indeed moved from their original locations. Coincidence? Could very well be. But hard to argue at the same time.

As 1 a.m. came and the night's investigation ended, the activity continued, even into the next morning. Up at 6 a.m. to pack up, check out and make the drive back to the airport, I heard the distinct sound of female laughter. I immediately thought, who would be up at this hour, especially after a long night of investigating? Then something told me to check the closet, the bathroom closet. I really didn't want to look, but I did anyway.

My heart skipped a beat when I saw a plastic access panel to the crawl space behind the closet removed, now laying precariously in front of the opening. A quick glance into the space revealed the customary plumbing and electrical works, but why the laughter? Was it children playing in the hall? Was it coming through the way from Room 401? What exactly caused the panel to become dislodged from the screw that was holding it in place anyway? The questions raced and the answers eluded. It really was anyone's guess, and considering where I was and the weekend I had just experienced, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

OnMilwaukee.com Live

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Turkey: Mayor replaces giant robot statue with T-Rex - BBC News bbc.com

Turkey: Mayor replaces giant robot statue with T-Rex

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 30 April 2015

The robot enjoyed an excellent view of Turkey's new presidential palace

The mayor of Turkey's capital city has responded to complaints over a giant robot statue by replacing it with a huge T-Rex.

The robot first appeared in the middle of a roundabout in Ankara at the start of April, causing some people to assume it was an elaborate April Fool's joke. But it was actually erected to promote a new amusement park, a pet project of the city's long-time mayor Melih Gokcek. Mr Gokcek - who is often described as a colourful character - supported the park's construction over the objection of Turkey's Chamber of Architects and Engineers. The chamber is now suing him for spending taxpayers' money on the statue.

They may have more complaints now though, as the huge, Transformer-like creation has been replaced by the equally arresting sight of a 3m-high model dinosaur, Today's Zaman reports. The T-Rex, teeth bared and seemingly on the prowl, was selected after the mayor asked for Twitter users' suggestions on which dinosaur to choose. It has been greeting drivers at the intersection since Wednesday. And it might not be the last statue to grace the site. "I will also replace the dinosaur with something else," Mr Gokcek says, although he hasn't given any clues as to what may come next.

The 10m-long dinosaur has been rather unimaginatively named T-Rex

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Girl, 2, who died from a brain tumour is FROZEN by her parents

08:40 EST, 17 April 2015 | dailymail.co.uk

The girl who could come back from the dead: Toddler who died from a brain tumour is FROZEN by parents who hope she can one day be revived by medical advances

- **Two-year-old Matheryn Naovaratpong, from Thailand, died in January**
- **Had battled a very rare brain cancer that affects very young children**
- **Her brain and body have been frozen by Arizona-based firm Alcor**
- **Family hopes body can be used for research - or she can one day live again**

By Anna Hodgekiss for MailOnline

A two-year-old girl who died from a brain tumour has been frozen - in the hope she will one day be revived by advances in science.

Matheryn Naovaratpong, from Thailand, is thought to be the youngest person ever cryogenically preserved.

The toddler was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer last April after she failed to wake up one morning, Motherboard's Brian Merchant reports

After being admitted to a Bangkok hospital, tests revealed she had a 11cm tumour in the left side of her brain.

Matheryn Naovaratpong, from Thailand, is thought to be the youngest person ever cryogenically preserved

Doctors diagnosed her with ependymoblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer that afflicts the very young.

The outlook was bleak from the start - the disease has a five-year survival rate of 30 per cent.

To make matters worse, Matheryn - known to her family as Einz - had fallen into a coma.

After a months of intensive treatment, including 12 rounds of brain surgery, 20 chemotherapy treatments, and 20 radiation therapy sessions, it became clear there was little more doctors could do.

She died on January 8th this year after her parents switched off her life support machine.

By the time she passed away, she had lost 80 per cent of the left side of her brain - essentially paralysing the right side of her body.

But determined for some good to come from her death, her family have had her body

cryogenically preserved - by one of the biggest providers of this service in the world.

Matheryn is currently at the Arizona-based Alcor, her brain and body frozen separately at 196C.

Her family's main - although many would argue, far fetched - hope is that one day, science will have progressed enough to restore life to her.

Alternatively, her parents want the cells from her brain and other parts of her body to be saved, so the disease that killed her can be studied in the future.

Aside from the huge number of 'what ifs', there is the cost.

'Membership' to Alcor costs $770 a year - plus a rather more hefty $80,000 for a 'neuro' (the procedure Matheryn had) or £200,000 to have a full body frozen.

Alcor is also where the bodies of famous baseball player Ted Williams, as well as his son John Henry Williams, are stored.

'It [the freezing] provides the opportunity for Matheryn to breathe again when the technology is provided and appropriate for her disease,' said her father, who found out about the cryopreservation firm on the internet.

HOW HER BODY WAS FROZEN

The procedure involves moving the patient onto an ice bed, coating them in freezing materials and artificially restarting the heart with a “heart-lung-resuscitator".

Over a dozen different medications are administered before blood is drained from the body and replaced with medical-grade antifreeze,.

The chest cavity is then opened to attach the major blood vessels to a machine that flushes out all remaining blood, then slowly lowering the body’s temperature, at a rate of 1˚ Celsius every hour.

After two weeks, the body reaches deep cryofreeze at -196˚ C.

But as a family of doctors, they are hopeful, rather than unrealistically optimistic.

And as Matheryn's doctor pointed out: 'Her life was made possible by modern science in the first place - she was carried by a surrogate because her mother had lost her uterus birthing a son.'

The family also feels there are 'still considerable frontiers left to be examined when it comes to medicine and human physiology.

'They didn't want their daughter's life to end in vain,' Aaron Drake, Alcor's medical response director told Motherboard.

'They're hoping that by preserving the tissue cells of this particular cancer, they can come up with a better treatment plan, and maybe even eventually cure it. If you look at the global picture of what they're trying to accomplish, it's very altruistic.'

But the process of cryogenically freezing the toddler wasn't just an emotional rollercoaster, but a logistical one, too.

In an ideal world, she would have been flown to Arizona.

But Matheryn's health was so poor and when she ended up on a ventilator, air travel became impossible.

Instead, a doctor from Alcor flew to Thailand and, as soon as she was pronounced dead - at 6.18pm on that January evening - preservation of her body began.

Matheryn is currently at the Arizona-based Alcor, her brain and body frozen separately.Her family's main - although many would argue, far fetched - hope is that one day, science will have progressed enough to restore life to her

Usually, the brain would be removed from the body and then frozen. But customs and repatriation issues to the US meant it was easier, according to Mr Drake, to undertake cryoprotective perfusion of Matheryn's brain in Thailand.

'The team decided to do so without separating her brain from the rest of the body,' he said.

The procedure 'involves moving the patient onto an ice bed, coating her in freezing materials and artificially restarting the heart with a "heart-lung-resuscitator".

Over a dozen different medications are administered before blood is drained from the body and replaced with medical-grade antifreeze,.

WHAT IS ALCOR ALL ABOUT?

Alcor's mission, according to the company website, is as follows...

'The preservation of individual lives, to be sought through the following prioritized list of fundamentals:

Maintain the current patients in biostasis.

Place current and future members into biostasis (when and if needed).

Eventually restore to health and reintegrate into society all patients in Alcor's care.

Fund research into developing more cost effective and reliable means for 1-3 above.

Provide public education as a means of fostering growth to support the goals of 1, 2, 3, 4 above.'

So far, the company has performed over 130 cryopreservations.

The chest cavity is then opened to attach the major blood vessels to a machine that flushes out all remaining blood, then slowly lowering the body's temperature, at a rate of 1˚ Celsius every hour.

After two weeks, the body reaches deep cryofreeze at -196˚ C.

Matheryn underwent a procedure called a 'neuro'. This is where the the brain is removed and stored, rather than the whole body.

It is now sitting in a stainless steel, vacuum-insulated container in Arizona filled with liquid nitrogen at -196˚C.

But the question still remains as to how - if science did eventually progress enough - any frozen body would actually be revived.

'We know we can regenerate a small organ, and grow a new heart,' said Mr Drake.

'We know we can 3-dimensionally print cells and hearts. So at some point we would need to regenerate her entire body, or at least her organs, and put it all together.

'Then we'd need to transplant that brain into a new body.'

However a growing number of people are showing interest in the pioneering technology.

'Our market is growing,' Mr Drake told Motherboard's Brian Merchant.

'The younger generation is more accustomed to seeing changes in technology. Any thing you can come up with, six months later, there's an app for it.

'The younger generation sees this and thinks 'sure why not'? - they can figure everything else out, so why not this? They feel this is kind of an inevitable thing.'

And for Matheryn's family, it provides peace of mind and gives them some solace from the tragedy of her death.

'At least, we devoted her life and body for the progress and development of science,' said her mother, Nareerat.

'This is also another treat for our family, we know that she's alive although we have been separated.'

LeeW, Fylde Coast, United Kingdom, 23 hours ago

I think if a body was successfully revived it would be just that, a functioning body with no recognisable mind.

richard, worcester, 1 day ago

If she is successfully defrosted her first words will be "where's my mummy"; I don't think I would want any child to go through trauma such as that.

AngA, Sydney, Australia, 1 day ago

So sad, poor parents can't let go

Sharlene, A remote Island, Cocos Islands, 1 day ago

How tragic to one day realize your beautiful baby whom you tried so hard to bring into this world didnt wake up one day. I dont know to say but rest in peace little beautiful angle and I hope your parents find peace some day.

Ernest, Izu, Japan, 1 day ago

I can understand their sentiment, it is a fact that, with advances taking place in science, that their objective could be closer to being realized than people think. The question though is is it the right thing to do? Ironically the experimentation and ethical debate can only take place through the pioneering and determination of people who have to grieve like this. RIP little one.

akiaki, melbourne, Australia, 1 day ago

Oh dear sweet pea.

American Commenter, San Francisco Bay area, United States, 1 day ago

Poor cherub.

Dylan899, East side, Australia, 1 day ago

Her brain is the essence of who she is and would become so with that sort of damage this seems a little pointless.

Veroniqa, sweden, United States, 1 day ago

Her little spirit is in Heaven now.... nothing you can do about it. xo

Landreason, Citizen of the world, Antarctica, 1 day ago

"Everything around us from things to family members or whatever has only being borrowed to us, not given to us as eternal possessions" Meister Eckhart 1260-1328

By Dana Matthews on 04/21/2015 whofortedblog.com

Grim Reaper captured on camera? Tourist posts creepy photo of "ghost" snapped at the Grand Canyon

featuredimage

In this weeks's edition of terrifying family photos, one man reveals a spooky picture snapped by his uncle sometime in the 80s… and it's probably one of the creepiest tourist photos of all time. The ghostly image depicts what looks an awful lot like a really tall, really pale, REALLY horrifying bald "man" in a dark cloak. The Dark Man stands in the bushes, appearing to keep a close eye on a tourist perched precariously close to the edge of the Grand Canyon

11124743_10152966655419440_226872618_n

According to Redditor ZombieGandaffi, his uncle and some friends were on a road trip when they decided to stop at the canyon to take some pictures. They spent 15 minutes snapping photos, sure that they were the only visitors at that particular section of the canyon that day. It wasn't until weeks later when ZG's uncle had the photos processed that he noticed the very strange, undeniably creepy man standing in the bushes nearby.

> "In the picture, not far behind my Uncle, was a man dressed in all black with pale white skin standing there in the brush just staring at the camera with a knowing smirk on his face… My Uncle and his friends claimed that they did not know this man, that they were the only ones in the spot, and the Grand Canyon was vacant of tourists at this time of year."

Fuuuuuuck that.

Could an unsuspecting amateur photographer have snapped an image of the Grim Reaper as he prepared to take a soul? Or was it just some random, huge albino dude in a black cloak hanging out at the Grand Canyon all by himself? You decide.

Obviously there's no good way to prove whether the image is real or a total hoax. We either

take ZG at his word, or we don't. To be perfectly honest, it doesn't really matter what you decide, because the creepy photo of the Grand Canyon Grim Reaper managed to give me the heebie-jeebies at 9am on a Tuesday, so I'd say it did its job successfully.

Also, anyone else think he looks like one of those creepy grey engineers from Prometheus? Ugh…

Toroweap Point

What do you think about ZG's creepy photo? Let us know in the comments below.

Dana Matthews

8 Comments

1. Coppertop

04/21/2015 at 9:36 AM

He's just looking for Bill and Ted, that's all.

- Sean

  04/23/2015 at 8:20 PM

  Teds not here man

2. evilsloth4

04/21/2015 at 10:51 AM

Scale, he's standing on a closer piece of cliff, looking towards the camera… what, no cheese smile?

3. Purrlie

04/21/2015 at 11:14 AM

Just another dude in a hoodie. And he doesn't look all that pale to me.

4. Dana Matthews

04/21/2015 at 11:17 AM

The real question is, do you guys like my Photoshop?

- Ken Summers

  04/21/2015 at 11:19 AM

9 out of 10. Only because you didn't go with Powder.

5. Ruth

04/21/2015 at 5:19 PM

Oh puh-leeeze, some average height kid in a hooded coat was standing there and their brains didn't see him because they weren't really looking at him They were too busy acting stupid on the edge of a damn big hole in the ground in icy weather. He isn't bald, I do see the edge of a hairline, and hey, I can point to a US state or two who have millions of people with that shade of skin in the winter. It's the old gorilla passing through the room of busy people and no one notices him brain test.

6. Greg Newkirk

04/23/2015 at 8:15 AM

Yeah, you guys, what's all the fuss about? It's just a really tall albino kid dressed in a long black cloak hiding in the bushes at the Grand Canyon in the off season. Sure, nobody saw him, but that's probably because he was dressed inconspicuously and looks like every other 16 year old boy who likes to mysteriously creep into tourists' photos.

Now, where'd I put my big red "debunked!" stamp?

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Halloween: Haunted houses in North Wales

- 15:44, 27 October 2014
- By Laura Swire

Looking for Halloween tours and haunted houses in North Wales? Have a look at these ghostly places in our region

Plas Teg. Image from: Y Plas "The Story of the Welsh Country House"

It's that time of year again where some of us willingly scare ourselves by taking part in a ghost walk or hunt, watching horror films and visiting places thought to be haunted.

We've found some of the most haunted houses in North Wales, will you be visiting any of them?

Send us your ghoulish pictures or local ghost stories by tweeting us @DoNorthWales or leaving a comment on our Facebook page.

For alternative Halloween events and half-term activities to entertain the family see our suggestions.

Historic monuments in North Wales are also home to Halloween events hosted by Cadw.

And if you are planning on dressing up this Halloween, watch this skull makeup tutorial and see if you can create the look yourself.

Ruthin Gaol

Inside Ruthin Gaol, Ruthin

The only Pentonville open to the public as a heritage attraction, Ruthin Gaol was built in 1775 with four cells. By 1837 it held 37 inmates and housed prisoners from Denbighshire and Flintshire.

There are many reports of paranormal activity including prison cell doors slamming shut.

The only known execution was William Hughes who was hanged for the murder of his wide. His ghost is said to haunt the jail.

© Mark Baker Hadyn Iball

Feeling brave?

Ruthin Gaol will be open from October 27-31 between 10am and 4pm. Normally the gaol is closed from October to March but can be booked for group tours.

It costs £4 for adults, £3 for children aged 5-16 and under 5s go free.

Find it at Clwyd Street, Ruthin, LL15 1HP.

For more information call 01824 708281.

Plas Teg

© Mark Baker

Plas Teg. Image from: Y Plas "The Story of the Welsh Country House"

A 17th Century Jacobean Mansion, Plas Teg is set high above the surrounding valley in Pontblyddyn, Mold.

Thought as one of the most haunted buildings in Wales, it is said that no less than 15 ghosts walk the rooms and hallways.

Although the building had residency for more than 400 years, the building was also used as a local court where people were tried and hung.

Brave enough to visit?

Saturday nights are paranormal nights at Plas Teg between 8pm and 2am.

It costs £40 per person with a £20 deposit to confirm booking. There are normally between 8-20 people on a tour.

Supposedly, tables rock and tip, lights and sounds appear, changes of mood and sightings of loved ones occur on a visit.

To book visit the Plas Teg website.

Find it on the A541, Wrexham/Mold Road, CH7 4HN.

Bodelwyddan Castle

© Mark Baker Hadyn Iball

Bodelwyddan Castle and Park, Denbighshire: Set in 260 acres, it features a historic country house, museum, adventure playground and maze.

During the Castle's restoration in 1829, Sir John Hay Williams wrote a diary entry that human bones were found near one of the chimneys which he had built back into the wall.

There have been ghostly happenings at the Castle including sightings of a mysterious lady in a flowing dress, shadowy figures drifting down corridors and unexplained voices, sounds and lights.

The Only Way is Essex star, Joey Essex recently had a ghostly encountering at the Castle.

Fancy visiting?

There are public ghost walks from 6pm-8pm on October 31, November 22, December 13. Booking is essential. Children welcome. It costs £10 for adults and £6 for children.

From 9pm-3am there are ghost hunts with a paranormal investigation team on November 1, November 22, December 13. Over 18s only. It costs £40 per person.

Book by calling 01745 584060.

Ruthin Castle

Ruthin Castle Hotel

Built in 1217, the modern day Ruthin's castle was built within the ruins in 1826. It was converted in to a hotel in the 1960s.

It's said that the most famous ghost at castle is the grey lady who was sentenced to death after murdering her husband during Edwardian times.

© Mark Baker Hadyn Iball

Want to visit?

On October 31, the castle are hosting a Halloween Medieval Feast costing £46 per person.

The Medieval Team will take you back over 700 years for a night of fun and laughter with flowing wine.

When midnight strikes, there will be a walk through the dark dungeon to spot vampires, ghosts and zombies.

To book tickets call 01824 702664.

Gwrych Castle

Hadyn Iball

Gwrych Castle at Abergele

Gwrych Castle is famous for its ghostly happenings. Apparently, sightings of Countess Winifred have been made in and around her beloved Garden Temple since her death in 1924.

There have been other ghostly experiences famously backed up by boxers Randy Turpin and Bruce Woodcock.

Want to go along?

On October 31 there will be ghost walks from 6pm-9pm running around the Castle.

There will be around 50 people per guide and is age 16 and above only and costs £15 per person. Price includes a hot beverage and pumpkin soup.

There will also be ghost hunts from 9pm-2am taking place in the Gardens and will have 30 people per group. Over 18s only and the hunt costs £30 per person.

On November 1 the castle are holding an open day from 12pm-4pm. There is no minimum age requirement and costs £5 per person and will be Halloween themed.

There will also be ghost walks from 6pm-9pm running around the Castle. Over 16s only and costing £15 per person which includes a hot beverage and pumpkin soup

Ghosts hunts will run from 9pm-2am in the Gardens. It costs £30 per person and is for over 18s only.

Point of Ayr Lighthouse

© Mark Baker Hadyn Iball

The Point of Ayr Lighthouse

The famous lighthouse on Talacre Beach often has sightings of a ghost in work clothes who stands on the lighthouse balcony and looks to be repairing equipment.

Ghostly footprints have been found on the beach in the direction of the lighthouse.

The lighthouse was built in 1776 and fell into disuse in 1884 and is 18 metres high.

Want to spot the ghost?

Visit Talacre Beach and the lighthouse and see if you can spot the ghost. At high tide the lighthouse is cut off by 40 yards of water, so be careful not to get stranded. Find it at Talacre, near Holywell, CH8 9RD.

Plas Mawr

Plas Mawr

Plas Mawr

Built between 1577-1580 in Conwy for an influential Welsh squire Robert Wynn, Plas Mawr is said to be haunted by Robert himself.

The building has been visited by television programme Most Haunted in 2006.

Poltergeist activity is often claimed as well as people being touched by unseen hands.

Brave enough to visit?

Plas Mawr is open to the public from 9.30am until 4pm up until October 31. It is closed until March after this.

It costs £5.75 for adults and £4.35 for children.

For more information call 01492 580167.

Do you know of any other haunted houses in North Wales? Tell us by tweeting us @DoNorthWales or leaving a comment on our Facebook page

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The note written in the blood of a 19th century serial killer

00:56 EST, 5 May 2015

dailymail.co.uk

The note written in the blood of a 19th century serial killer: 'Macabre memento' of murderer's dissection following execution set to go on display for first time

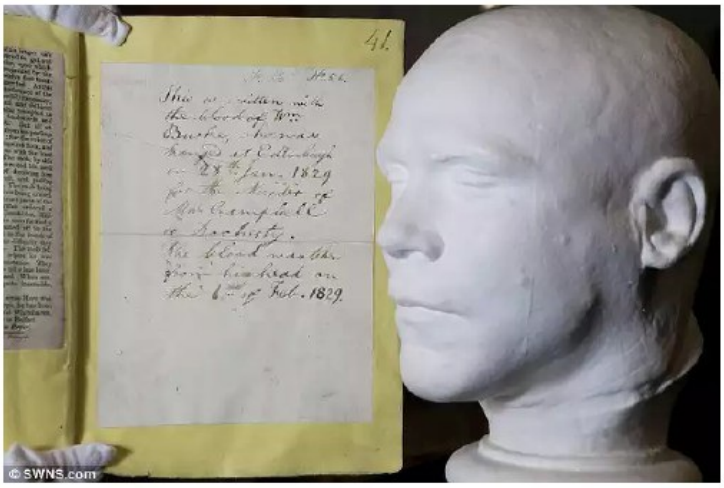
- **William Hare and William Burke were body snatchers turned mass murderers in the 19th century**
- **The pair killed at least 15 people to meet the demand for cadavers at Edinburgh medical school**
- **Burke was hung for murder in 1829 and his blood was used to create a macabre memento**
- **The letter and his death mask will go on display at the University of Edinburgh from 15 to 17 May**

By Hannah Parry For Mailonline

A letter written in the blood of one of Britain's most notorious serial killers is to go on public display for the first time, it was revealed yesterday.

Body snatchers William Burke and William Hare became mass murderers in the late 19th century to meet the demand for medical cadavers.

At the time, the Edinburgh medical school was struggling to get enough bodies for its anatomy classes so the pair struck upon an inventive way of keeping the cadavers coming.



The grim death mask of body snatcher and notorious killer William Burke and the letter written in his blood after his execution

Between 1827 and 1828 the Irishmen had murdered 15 victims, mostly poor and homeless, in Edinburgh before they were arrested after neighbours reported seeing a body in Burke's bed.

Hare escaped execution after he gave evidence against his friend but Burke was hung in January 1829.

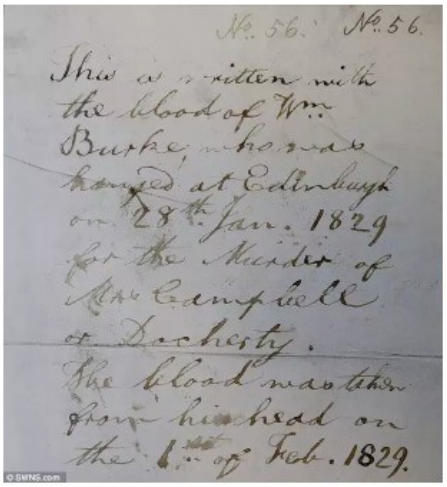
Following his death, blood was taken from the killer's body which was publicly dissected and put on display to 30,000 members of the public in the Edinburgh University Museum - where his skeleton remains until this day.

The letter in blood, usually kept in the University of Edinburgh's archives, reads: 'This is written in the blood of William Burke, who was hanged at Edinburgh on 28 Jan. 1829 for the murder of Mrs Campbell or Docherty. The blood was taken from his head on the 1 Feb. 1829.'

The letter will be displayed during the university's 'One Last Fright' weekend from 15 to 17 May.

A petition from Edinburgh medical students demanding more bodies, written at the time Burke and Hare were supplying them, will also be showcased at the event.

The letter reads: 'This is written in the blood of William Burke, who was hanged at Edinburgh on 28 Jan.



1829 for the murder of Mrs Campbell or Docherty. The blood was taken from his head on the 1 Feb. 1829'

The letter will be displayed during University of Edinburgh's 'One Last Fright' weekend from 15 to 17 May

Joseph Marshall, head of special collections at the University of Edinburgh, said: 'The story of Burke and Hare has captured people's imaginations for generations.

'We are pleased to offer this rare insight into this dark and fascinating tale in Edinburgh's history.'

Burke's skeleton and death mask are still exhibited in the University of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum.

Sarah Deters, Learning and Engagement Curator at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research Collection, said: 'This will go on display next Friday and it is a document that is written in Burke's blood. It was done during his dissection that happened in February in 1829.

'I think it's rare just because it is such an unusual item to have on a piece of paper, written in a person's blood especially of the notorious killer William Burke.

'We've had a really large response to putting this on display and I think it adds to the fact people are still quite curious about Burke and Hare.

'It was recently re-discovered in our archives. We have a scrapbook of the Burke and Hare murders but we didn't realise that this note was in the scrap book. So when we were just recently cataloguing, it was rediscovered.'

BODY SNATCHERS TURNED SERIAL KILLERS: WILLIAM HARE AND WILLIAM BURKE

Body snatchers William Burke and William Hare became mass murderers in the late 19th century to meet the demand for medical cadavers.

In 1827, the two Irishmen were working in Edinburgh as labourers and staying at Hare and his wife's lodging house.

Body snatchers William Burke and William Hare became mass murderers in the late 19th century to meet the demand for medical cadavers.

Body snatchers William Burke and William Hare became mass murderers in the late 19th century to meet the demand for medical cadavers

In 1827, the two Irishmen were working in Edinburgh as labourers and staying at Hare and his wife's lodging house.

When an old army pensioner living in the same lodging house died owing them money, they decided to sell his body to cover the debt.

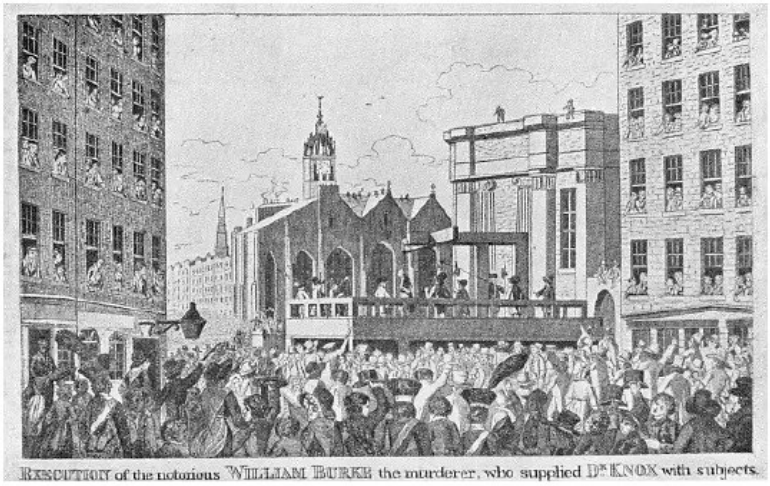
On the advice of a student who suggested they take the body to Dr Knox's anatomy school where they

were paid over £7 for the body (more than £700 today) and realised how lucrative the trade could be.

In the following months, Burke and Hare murdered 15 more people. All of their victims were very poor, often homeless.

James Wilson, or Daft Jamie, was a young man with a limp who was 18 at the time of his murder.

When Dr Knox uncovered the body the next morning, several students recognized him. The doctor denied that it was the missing boy, and was reported to have dissected the body ahead of others to render the remains unrecognisable.


EXECUTION of the notorious WILLIAM BURKE the murderer, who supplied Dr KNOX with subjects.

Eventually, when neighbours reported seeing a body in Burke's bed, Burke and Hare were tried for three murders.

Hare agreed to give evidence against his colleague in order to escape prosecution.

Burke was hung on 28 January 1829 and his body was dissected by Dr Knox's rival, Dr Monro.

The next day it was exhibited in the Edinburgh University Museum to more than 30,000 members of the public. Burke's skeleton can be found today at the Edinburgh University Museum.

In contrast, William Hare disappeared from view, possibly changing his name after being hounded from jobs when his identity became known. His date of death is uncertain.

louisaH, EARTH, United Kingdom, a day ago

There are a few spelling snobs on here who love to intellectually bully people. To error is to be human. Jeez, i bet your all riotous fun at parties!! Not!!

louisaH, EARTH, United Kingdom, a day ago

There are a few spelling snobs on here who love to intellectually bully people. To error is to be human. Jeez, i bet your all riotous fun at parties!! Not!!

Memb54, Hernandarias, Paraguay, a day ago

Quote from the grammarist: Hung is the past tense and past participle of hang in most of that verb¿s senses. For instance, yesterday you might have hung a picture on the wall, hung a right turn, and hung your head in sorrow. The exception comes where hang means to put to death by hanging. The past tense and past participle of hang in this sense, and only in this sense, is hanged.

Lennox, Dundee, United Kingdom, a day ago

I have always wanted to know what happened to Hare but , nobody seems to have any information on him at all . Perhaps he changed his name and became a pillar of society ? Just a thought .

benbeau, Somewhere, United Kingdom, a day ago

May be it is time for William Burke's remains to be interred. We regard ourselves as a civilised nation. Imagine how Burke's relatives feel having the remains of their relative permanently on display at the University of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum for all to view? He was given the most severe punished for his crimes. Now, nearly 200 years on, I think it is the time to bury him. I speak as a distant relative & a member of a civilised society. RIP.

Jami, Costa Mesa, United States, about 10 hours ago

He was a murderer who got what he deserved. I'm sure his family disowned him and wouldn't care if his remains were thrown in a garbage heap.

Sir Talbot Buxomly, Mansfield. Ma., United States, a day ago

Because killing people to sell their corpses to a medical school isn't horrendous enough, so let's write a statement in his blood.

Resedit, Manchester, United Kingdom, a day ago

So many people getting their knickers in a knot over 'hanged' or 'hung'. 'Hanged' is grammatically correct but 'hung' is acceptable these day as the OED says so. Personally, who gives!

Tigershark, Timbuktu, French Southern Territories, a day ago

the first serial killer who makes sense, has a proper motive, falls into the trade honestly, as it were. the doctor in cahoots, lovely. engaging exhibits. makes me want to fly to Edinburgh. and he winds up on the same table he'd been feeding. poetic.

ocelot77, oxford, United Kingdom, a day ago

"Hanged", not "hung", as you will see from the original documents (and a basic knowledge of the English language).

honisoit, avalon, a day ago

This is from the Oxford dictionary; "Definition of hung in English: verb past and past participle of hang." Take it up with them.

Enquirer, Meriden, United Kingdom, a day ago

'Hanged' is the grammatically correct form, but 'hung' is a more common modern usage.

taras shevchenko, woodstock, Canada, a day ago

remember there was no telly back then

Rope-a-dope, London, United Kingdom, a day ago

True, everyone had to have a hobby back then.

Ken Mist, Paris, a day ago

If someone can't read what the letter says then it's hardly likely they'll be able to read the explanatory

caption I reckon so altogether an exercise in superfluity.

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Has disembodied samurai ghost photobombed little girl's holiday picture?

mirror.co.uk

- 12:37, 21 April 2015
- By Richard Wheatstone

The girl's dad was left stunned after reviewing the pictures to the mysterious boots behind the posing child

Samurai Ghost

Ghostly?: Debate has been sparked over the picture which appears to show a pair of disembodied legs

A dad believes a holiday snap with his little girl may have been photobombed by a disembodied SAMURAI GHOST.

The child innocently posed for a series of snaps at a beach in Zushi, Kanagawa prefecture, Japan, while on holiday from Canada.

After taking five shots on his Samsung Galaxy smartphone, the dad looked back and spotted the mysterious black boots behind the child.

Samurai Ghost

Mystery: The girl's dad was unable to explain the legs which appeared in a picture with his daughter

A puzzled family friend has now shared the images on Reddit asking people for their theories on the chilling images.

He said: "My friend took this pic (sic) of his kid. He's a bit too disturbed by it all to post himself, so I am doing it for him because I'm fascinated by it.

"Nobody was around when the photo was taken and certainly nobody was behind her. He took about five photos of her at this spot over a period of about two minutes.

"I've known this guy for years and trust him. It has definitely not been Photoshopped, but I'm also not saying this is anything."

Boots: The dad insists no-one was stood behind the little girl when he took the picture on a

Samurai Ghost

Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sceptics pointed out a visible strip of blue or denim material behind the girl which appear to be from someone stood behind her but the man insists no-one was behind the girl when the picture was taken.

The scene of the shot is close to the site of samruai tombs hidden in among mountains nearby.

Samurais were noble fighters in ancient Japan who are often portrayed as having worn body armour and boots.

The Reddit user, called Obiaruf, added: "They looked more like samurai boots to me. We just can't explain this."

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Has the First Person to Achieve Immortality Already Been Born?

2015-04-13 14:00:00 vice.com

Winds whistled through Peking's Forbidden City as Jiajing, the 11th emperor of the Ming Dynasty, raised a porcelain flask decorated with symbols of eternal youth. It was to be his final attempt at achieving immortality. He had been duped by unscrupulous advisors into believing that the deadly mercury he was about to drink was the elixir of eternal life.

Jiajing wasn't the first or last to pursue everlasting youthfulness. It has been the stuff of legend and fantasy since we first began dreaming. Fantasy, legend, dreams—the realms of the supernatural but never the scientific. Until now.

Aubrey de Grey is a Cambridge gerontologist and co-founder or the California-based Strategies for Engineered Negligible Senescence (SENS) Research Foundation. Gerontology is the study of aging, and de Grey is currently making waves in the field.

De Grey is at the epicentre of a growing cohort of researchers who believe we are on the cusp of a biological revolution which will give rise to therapies that will enable many of us already born to achieve something like Jiajing's dream. In other words, he believes that the first person who will live to be 1,000 is already alive today.

So is immortality just around the corner?

"The first thing I want to do is get rid of the use of this word immortality, because it's enormously damaging, it is not just wrong, it is damaging," de Grey told me. "It means zero risk of death from any cause—whereas I just work on one particular cause of death, namely aging. It is also a distraction, it causes people to think this whole quest is morally ambiguous and technologically fanciful."

But put another way, he's more optimistic. "If we ask the question: 'Has the person been born who will be able to escape the ill health of old age indefinitely?' Then I would say the chances of that are very high," he said. "Probably about 80 percent."

> **"We will be able to keep one step ahead of the problem and keep rejuvenating the same people as long as we like. That is what longevity escape velocity is all about."**

It's not that de Grey has a cure-all magic potion ready to bottle back in the lab. There's no 21st century version of Jiajing's elusive elixir. The SENS roadmap is not based on stopping the aging process, but on undoing the damage done by the wear and tear of life. For example, they are currently working on the development of a therapy that stimulates the immune system to selectively target and kill so-called "death-resistant cells" that have lost the ability to divide, healthy cells then multiply and replenish the tissue. These therapies will then continue to improve, adding to an individual's life expectancy faster than they are using it up. It's a concept that de Grey calls "longevity escape velocity."

"The therapies that we are working on at the moment are not going to be perfect," he said.

“These therapies are going to be good enough to take middle age people, say people aged 60, and rejuvenate them thoroughly enough so they won’t be biologically 60 again until they are chronologically 90. That means we have essentially bought 30 years of time to figure out how to re-rejuvenate them when they are chronologically 90 so they won't be biologically 60 for a third time until they are 120 or 150. I believe that 30 years is going to be very easily enough time to do that.”

Typically gerontologists have investigated ways of preventing metabolism from causing damage to the body, but de Grey doesn’t see this as the way forward. “The alternative is to let the damage be created but to repair it periodically so that it never becomes so abundant that it causes pathology,” he said. “We will be able to keep one step ahead of the problem and keep rejuvenating the same people as long as we like. That is what longevity escape velocity is all about.”

The SENS model of gerontology is built on the principle that all of the many different metabolic reactions can be described within just seven categories. These include the accumulation of intracellular “junk” (malformed proteins within a cell); the accumulation of extracellular “junk;” extracellular crosslinks (unwanted chemical bonds that bind proteins); cell death; death-resistant cells; cancerous cells; and finally mutations to mitochondrial DNA.

De Grey claims that these “seven deadly things” constitute all pathological effects of aging. But perhaps his boldest claim is that we already have the knowledge to control and repair each of these different types of damage, and it is purely a matter of time before we begin to implement these therapies in living organisms.

“We need to make step by step breakthroughs in all the seven categories, but the big breakthrough in terms of publicity will be when we can take middle aged mice in the laboratory and rejuvenate them,” he said. “Once we can do it for mice, people are going to know that its only a matter of time before we can do it for human beings. So that’s where I want to get to and I think we have a fair chance of getting there in six to eight years from now.”

Naturally, de Grey tells me that his strategy to end aging will most likely be developed before any other. However, if it is actual immortality you are after, you might want to think about uploading your conscience. This may sound farfetched, but it’s an idea that Stephen Hawking believes could one day be possible. Speaking at the Cambridge Film Festival in 2013, the theoretical physicist explained: “the brain is like a programme in the mind, which is like a computer, so it's theoretically possible to copy the brain onto a computer and so provide a form of life after death.” Once a person’s mind has been uploaded onto a computer it is possible they could exist for as long technology exists. Whether this is “living” is debatable. It will also probably be quite some time before we have the capabilities to do this, but if de Grey’s work can stave off the effects of old age we may live long enough to be afforded the luxury of digital immortality.

Whether or not the first person to achieve immortality is already alive is still a guessing game, but it is hard not to get excited about de Grey’s optimistic projections. Jiajing would have been 508 this year, had his elixir proved effective. Perhaps one day, half a millennium from

now, we will scratch our young heads trying to recall 2015.

Goodbye, Meatbags is a series on Motherboard about the waning relevance of the human physical form. Follow along here.

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HAWAIIAN GHOST TESTING

MANOA VALLEY for centuries has been to the Hawaiians the royal palace of rainbows. The mountains at the head of the valley were gods whose children were the divine wind and rain from whom was born the beautiful rainbow-maiden who plays in and around the valley day and night whenever misty showers are touched by sunlight or moonlight.

The natives of the valley usually give her the name of Kahalaopuna, or The Hala of Puna. Sometimes, however, they call her Kaikawahine Anuenue, or The Rainbow Maiden. The rainbow, the anuenue, marks the continuation of the legendary life of Kahala.

The legend of Kahala is worthy of record in itself, but connected with the story is a very interesting account of an attempt to discover and capture ghosts according to the methods supposed to be effective by the Hawaiian witch doctors or priests of the long, long ago.

The legends say that the rainbow-maiden had two lovers, one from Waikiki, and one from Kamoiliili, half-way between Manoa and Waikiki. {p. 85} Both wanted the beautiful arch to rest over their homes, and the maiden, the descendant of the gods, to dwell therein.

Kauhi, the Waikiki chief, was of the family of Mohoalii, the shark-god, and partook of the shark's cruel nature. He became angry with the rainbow-maiden and killed her and buried the body, but her guardian god, Pueo, the owl, scratched away the earth and brought her to life. Several times this occurred, and the owl each time restored the buried body to the wandering spirit. At last the chief buried the body deep down under the roots of a large koa-tree. The owl-god scratched and pulled, but the roots of the tree were many and strong. His claws were entangled again and again. At last he concluded that life must be extinct and so deserted the place.

The spirit of the murdered girl was wandering around hoping that it could be restored to the body, and not be compelled to descend to Milu, the Under-world of the Hawaiians. Po was sometimes the Under-world, and Milu was the god ruling over Po. The Hawaiian ghosts did not go to the home of the dead as soon as they were separated from the body. Many times, as when rendered unconscious, it was believed that the spirit had left the body, but for some reason had been able to come back into it and enjoy life among friends once more.

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Kahala, the rainbow-maiden, was thus restored several times by the owl-god, but with this last failure it seemed to be certain that the body would grow cold and stiff before the spirit could return. The spirit hastened to and fro in great distress, trying to attract attention.

If a wandering spirit could interest some one to render speedy aid, the ancient Hawaiians thought that a human being could place the spirit back in the body. Certain prayers and incantations were very effective in calling the spirit back to its earthly home. The Samoans

had the same thought concerning the restoration of life to one who had become unconscious, and had a special prayer, which was known as the prayer of life, by which the spirit was persuaded to return into its old home. The Hervey Islanders also had this same conception of any unconscious condition. They thought the spirit left the body but when persuaded to do so returned and brought the body back to life. They have a story of a woman who, like the rainbow-maiden, was restored to life several times.

The spirit of Kahala was almost discouraged. The shadows of real death were encompassing her, and the feeling of separation from the body was becoming more and more permanent. At last she saw a noble young chief approaching. {p. 87} He was Mahana, the chief of Kamoiliili. The spirit hovered over him and around him and tried to impress her anguish upon him.

Mahana felt the call of distress, and attributed it to the presence of a ghost, or aumakua, a ghost-god. He was conscious of an influence leading him toward a large koa-tree. There he found the earth disturbed by the owl-god. He tore aside the roots and discovered the body bruised and disfigured and yet recognized it as the body of the rainbow-maiden whom he had loved.

In the King Kalakaua version of the story Mahana is represented as taking the body, which was still warm, to his home in Kamoiliili.

Mahana's elder brother was a kahuna, or witchdoctor, of great celebrity. He was called at once to pronounce the prayers and invocations necessary for influencing the spirit and the body to reunite. Long and earnestly the kahuna practised all the arts with which he was acquainted and yet completely failed. In his anxiety he called upon the spirits of two sisters who, as aumakuas, watched over the welfare of Mahana's clan. These spirit-sisters brought the spirit of the rainbow-maiden to the bruised body and induced it to enter the feet. Then, by using the forces of spirit-land, while the kahuna chanted and used his charms, they pushed the spirit of Kahala

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slowly up the body until "the soul was once more restored to its beautiful tenement."

The spirit-sisters then aided Mahana in restoring the wounded body to its old vigor and beauty. Thus many days passed in close comradeship between Kahala and the young chief, and they learned to care greatly for one another.

But while Kauhi lived it was unsafe for it to be known that Kahala was alive. Mahana determined to provoke Kauhi to personal combat; therefore he sought the places which Kauhi frequented for sport and gambling. Bitter words were spoken and fierce anger aroused until at last, by the skilful use of Kahala's story, Mahana led Kauhi to admit that he had killed the rainbow-maiden and buried her body.

Mahana said that Kahala was now alive and visiting his sisters.

Kauhi declared that if there was any one visiting Mahana's home it must be an impostor. In

his anger against Mahana he determined a more awful death than could possibly come from any personal conflict. He was so sure that Kahala was dead that he offered to be baked alive in one of the native imus, or ovens, if she should be produced before the king and the principal chiefs of the district. Akaaka, the grandfather of Kahala, one of the mountain-gods of Manoa Valley, was to be one of the judges.

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This proposition suited Mahana better than a conflict, in which there was a possibility of losing his own life.

Kauhi now feared that some deception might be practised. His proposition had been so eagerly accepted that he became suspicious; therefore he consulted the sorcerers of his own family. They agreed that it was possible for some powerful kahuna to present the ghost of the murdered maiden and so deceive the judges. They decided that it was necessary to be prepared to test the ghosts.

If it could be shown that ghosts were present, then the aid of "spirit catchers" from the land of Milu could be invoked. Spirits would seize these venturesome ghosts and carry them away to the spirit-land, where special punishments should be meted out to them. It was supposed that "spirit catchers" were continually sent out by Milu, king of the Under-world.

How could these ghosts be detected? They would certainly appear in human form and be carefully safeguarded. The chief sorcerer of Kauhi's family told Kauhi to make secretly a thorough test. This could be done by taking the large and delicate leaves of the ape-plant[1] and spreading them over the place where Kahala Must walk and sit before the judges. A human being could not touch these leaves so carefully

[1. Gunnera petaloides.]

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placed without tearing and bruising them. A ghost walking upon them could not make any impression. Untorn leaves would condemn Mahana to the ovens to be baked alive, and the spirit catchers would be called by the sorcerers to seize the escaped ghost and carry it back to spirit-land. Of course, if some other maid of the islands had pretended to be Kahala, that could be easily determined by her divine ancestor Akaaka. The trial was really a test of ghosts, for the presence of Kahala as a spirit in her former human likeness was all that Kauhi and his chief sorcerer feared. The leaves were selected with great care and secretly placed so that no one should touch them but Kahala. There was great interest in this strange contest for a home in a burning oven. The imus had been prepared: the holes had been dug, and the stones and wood necessary for the sacrifice laid close at hand.

The king and judges were in their places. The multitude of retainers stood around at a respectful distance. Kauhi and his chief sorcerer were placed where they could watch closely every movement of the maiden who should appear before the judgment-seat.

Kahala, the rainbow-maiden, with all the beauty of her past girlhood restored to her, drew near, attended by the two spirit-sisters who had saved and protected her. The spirits

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knew at once the ghost test by which Kahala was to be tried. They knew also that she had nothing to fear, but they must not be discovered. The test applied to Kahala would only make more evident the proof that she was a living human being, but that same test would prove that they were ghosts, and the spirit-catchers would be called at once and they would be caught and carried away for punishment. The spirit-sisters could not try to escape. Any such attempt would arouse suspicion and they would be surely seized. The ghost-testing was a serious ordeal for Kahala and her friends.

The spirit-sisters whispered to Kahala, telling her the purpose attending the use of the ape leaves and asking her to break as many of them on either side of her as she could without attracting undue attention. Thus she could aid her own cause and also protect the sister-spirits. Slowly and with great dignity the beautiful rainbow-maiden and her friends passed through the crowds of eager attendants to their places before the king. Kahala bruised and broke as many of the leaves as she could quietly. She was recognized at once as the child of the divine rain and wind of Manoa Valley. There was no question concerning her bodily presence. The torn leaves afforded ample and indisputable testimony.

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Kauhi, in despair, recognized the girl whom he had several times tried to slay. In bitter disappointment at the failure of his ghost-test the chief sorcerer, as the Kalakaua version of this legend says, "declared that he saw and felt the presence of spirits in some manner connected with her." These spirits, he claimed, must be detected and punished.

A second form of ghost-testing was proposed by Akaaka, the mountain-god. This was a method frequently employed throughout all the islands of the Hawaiian group. It was believed that any face reflected in a pool or calabash of water was a spirit face. Many times had ghosts been discovered in this way. The face in the water had been grasped by the watcher, crushed between his hands, and the spirit destroyed.

The chief sorcerer eagerly ordered a calabash of water to be quickly brought and placed before him. In his anxiety to detect and seize the spirits who might be attending Kahala he forgot about himself and leaned over the calabash. His own spirit face was the only one reflected on the surface of the water. This spirit face was believed to be his own true spirit escaping for the moment from the body and bathing in the liquid before him. Before he could leap back and restore his spirit to his body Akaaka leaped forward, thrust his hands down into the water and

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seized and crushed this spirit face between his mighty hands. Thus it was destroyed before it could return to its home of flesh and blood.

The chief sorcerer fell dead by the side of the calabash by means of which he had hoped to destroy the friends of the rainbow-maiden.

In this trial of the ghosts the two most powerful methods of making a test as far as known among the ancient Hawaiians were put in practice.

Kauhi was punished for his crimes against Kahala. He was baked alive in the imu prepared on his own land at Waikiki. His lands and retainers were given to Kahala and Mahana.

The story of Kahala and her connection with the rainbows and waterfalls of Manoa Valley has been told from time to time in the homes of the nature-loving native residents of the valley.

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Next: XII. How Milu Became The King of Ghosts

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Virginia Beach Sailor run over by F/A-18 talks about the accident that cost him his leg

wtkr.com

Virginia Beach Sailor run over by F/A-18 talks about the accident that cost him his leg

Posted 12:30 am, April 30, 2015, by Todd CorilloUpdated at 09:58am, May 1, 2015

Virginia Beach, Va. (WTKR) – Halfway through his first deployment on the USS George H.W. Bush last summer, something went horribly wrong for Aviation Boatswain's Mate Aircraft Handler Collin Kohlhepp.

"I was pulling the brake off of the back wheel and they started towing the plane forward and I just got caught," he recalled in an exclusive interview with NewsChannel 3's Todd Corillo.

An F/A-18 Super Hornet was on top of Kohlhepp.

"At the time I was like, 'I'm just happy to be alive. I got run over by a jet.' You don't think – there are people who get hit by cars and that's it. I got hit by a plane!"

Now nearly a year after he lost his leg, Kohlhepp is opening up about the accident, the challenges he's faced and his determination and resilience for the future.

The Accident

It was June 18, 2014.

The USS George HW Bush was cruising in the Arabian Gulf.

Kohlhepp, who joined the Navy shortly after graduating from Ocean Lakes High School in 2012, was about half-way through his first deployment.

"It was a regular day. Wake up. Get dressed. Meet your guys and get up on the flight deck and you do your job."

That job for Kohlhepp involved directing jets on the flight deck of the Bush.

On that day, however, something went horribly wrong.

Kohlhepp got stuck under the wheel of a Super Hornet while the crew was trying to move the jet.

"I thought somebody had pulled be back and I looked around and then I felt it and this is not good and I started yelling – my guy saw me and stopped it immediately and started backing up."

Within seconds, the jet was off his legs, but the damage had been done.

"I was in shock. I thought I was going to die for a second."

Quick Moves

The weeks that followed are all a blur of memories for Kohlhepp.

Within seconds, he was in the medical unit on the USS George HW Bush.

From there, he was taken to Bahrain and then Germany.

Being in Germany 3 days later is Kohlhepp's first concrete memory after the accident.

Soon he found himself transferred to Walter Reed Military Hospital in suburban Maryland.

It was there that doctors confirmed his leg would have to be amputated.

"I was okay with it up until the day of amputation they were like 'hey, are you ready?' and I was like 'okay, I'm going to lose a leg.'"

The Road to Recovery

Kohlhepp was fitted with a prosthetic to replace the portion of his right leg that was amputated.

"I still have a knee. That's important. That's a good thing to have," he said laughing.

Next came learning to use the prosthetic, something that proved to be more challenging than expected.

"You've got to learn how to take steps. Be able to figure out your footing. You've got to get strength back too – your legs are weak after lying in bed for so long."

There are things he still finds difficult – stairs are a pain and he discovered activities like Go-Karting aren't easy without both legs.

Still, he's taken it all remarkably well.

Kohlhepp has gone snowboarding with his new prosthetic and three months after he was run over by a plane, he found himself at the controls of a small one.

"I was nervous! I was like – last time I saw a plane – it wasn't great," Kohlhepp shared with a laugh.

No Blame

Collin Kohlhepp is insistent that what happened to him on the flight deck of the USS George HW Bush was an accident.

"It just happened. It was just an accident you know. It was nobody's fault."

When the USS George HW Bush returned to Norfolk in November, Kohlhepp was on-board,

having flown out to the ship, reunited with his fellow crew there the day of the accident.

“I still hang out with the guys that were involved you know. Like if they are home I go hangout and get a drink and see each other.”

The Future

Kohlhepp is expected to remain at Walter Reed for another 6-8 months.

After that, he wants to go to college and major in film, hoping to one day work on major blockbuster action movies.

As far as what happened to him on the Bush that June day-

“I don’t regret any of it. It’s made me who I am. I wouldn’t take any of it back. Just keep going. I’m still normal. I’m still me. Just because I’m missing a leg doesn’t make me any less of a person.”

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REVEALED: The signs and symbols burglars are using to mark YOUR home before breaking in

A LIST of cryptic codes and symbols believed to be used by BURGLARS to mark homes as they plan raids has emerged online.

By Levi Winchester
PUBLISHED: 10:51, Thu, Apr 16, 2015 | UPDATED: 21:42, Thu, Apr 16, 2015

GETTY • EXPRESS

It is understood that the crooks may be using the series of codes to offer in-depth information on households - including whether the occupant is vulnerable and if they have been burgled before.

The signs, which range from labelling a house as a "good target" to "nothing worth stealing", are supposedly marked on the walls of a property to help thieves target homes.

A total of eight signs and symbols were revealed on the list - which also include "too risky" and "wealthy".

Britons are now being urged to watch out for these markings, which were published on a police Twitter feed and Facebook page.

EXPRESS

The post, which came from the Lanarkshire Police Division, read: "A secret 'housebreakers code' is being used to target properties in the West of Scotland.

"These were recently spotted in East Kilbride. We would urge that if anyone sees these symbols to call us on 101."

Following the post, local resident Gemma McPike commented to say she saw an "x with a circle around it" outside her home - a sign which according to the list, means she has "nothing worth stealing".

She said: "Outside my house just now is a x with a circle round it.

"My hubby said it was the Virgin Media guys yesterday. I've just called them and they know nothing about it.

"So I've called 101 and reported it. However the x with circle round it means 'nothing worth stealing' so hopefully nothing to worry about."

Similar markings have reportedly been used by burglars in other parts of the UK.

Officers in West Yorkshire previously published a list showing almost identical signs and symbols - which was later branded the 'Da Pinci List'.

Last year a 78-year-old dementia sufferer whose Bedfordshire home was robbed was found to have four chalk crosses outside marked on her walls.

At the time, Detective Inspector Zara Brown, of the Priority Crime Team, appealed for relatives of other vulnerable people to watch out for similar markings on their homes.

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HOMELESS AND DESOLATE GHOSTS

The spirits of the dead, according to a summary of ancient Hawaiian statements, were divided into three classes, each class bearing the prefix "ao," which meant either the enlightened or instructed class, or simply a crowd or number of spirits grouped together.

The first class the Ao-Kuewa, were the desolate and the homeless spirits who during their residence in the body had no friends and no property.

The second class was called the Ao-Aumakuas. These were the groups of ghost-gods or spirit-ancestors of the Hawaiians. They usually remained near their old home as helpful protectors of the family to which they belonged, and were worshipped by the family.

The third class was the Ao-o-Milu. Milu was the chief god of the Under-world throughout the greater part of Polynesia. Many times the Under-world itself bore the name of Milu. The Ao-o-Milu were the souls of the departed of both the preceding classes who had performed all tasks, passed all barriers, and found their proper place in the land of the king of ghosts.

The old Hawaiians never intelligently classified these departed spirits and sometimes mixed them together in inextricable confusion, but in the legends and remarks of early Hawaiian writers, these three classes are roughly sketched. The desolate ghost had no right to call any place its home, to which it could come, over which it could watch, and around which it could hover. It had to go to the desolate parts of the islands or into a wilderness or forest.

The homeless ghost had no one to provide even the shadow of food for it. It had to go into the dark places and search for butterflies, spiders, and other insects. These were the ordinary food for all ghosts unless there were worshippers to place offerings on secret altars, which were often dedicated to gain a special power of praying other people to death. Such ghosts were well cared for, but, on the other hand, the desolate ones must wander and search until they could go down into the land of Milu.

There were several ways which the gods had prepared for

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ghosts to use in this journey to the Under-world. it is interesting to note that all through Polynesia as well as in the Hawaiian Islands the path for ghosts led westward.

The students of New Zealand folk-lore will say that this signified the desire of those about to die to return to the land of their ancestors beyond the western ocean.

The paths were called Leina-a-ka-uhane (paths-for-leaping-by-the-spirit). They were almost always on bold bluffs looking westward over the ocean. The spirit unless driven back could come to the headland and leap down into the land of the dead, but when this was done that spirit could never return to the body it had left. Frequently connected with these Leina-a-ka-

uhane was a breadfruit-tree which would be a gathering-place for ghosts.

At these places there were often friendly ghosts who would help and sometimes return the spirit to the body or send it to join the Ao-Aumakuas (ancestor ghosts). At the place of descent it was said there was an owawa (ditch) through which the ghosts one by one were carried down to Po, and Lei-lono was the gate where the ghosts were killed as they went down. Near this gateway was the Ulu-o-lei-walo, or breadfruit-tree of the spirits. This tree had two branches, one toward the cast and one toward the west, both of which were used by the ghosts. One was for leaping into eternal darkness into Po-pau-ole, the other as a meeting-place with the helpful gods.

This tree always bore the name Ulu-o-lei-walo (the-quietly-calling-breadfruit-tree). On the island of Oahu, one of these was said to have been at Kaena Point; another was in Nuuanu Valley.

The desolate ghost would come to this meeting-place of the dead and try to find a ghost of the second class, the aumakuas, who had been one of his ancestors and who still had some family to watch over. Perhaps this one might entertain or help him.

If the ghost could find no one to take him, then he would try to wander around the tree and leap into the branches. The rotten, dead branches of the tree belonged to the spirits. When they broke and fell, the spirits on them dropped into the land of Milu--the under-world home of ghosts. often the spirit could leap from these dead branches into the Underworld.

Sometimes the desolate spirit would be blown, as by the

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wind, back and forth, here and there, until no possible place of rest could be found on the island where death had come; then the ghost would leap into the sea, hoping to find the way to Milu through some sea-cave. Perhaps the waves would carry the ghost, or it might be able to swim to one of the other islands, where a new search would be made for some ancestor-ghost from which to obtain help. Not finding aid, it would be pushed and driven over rough, rocky places and through the wilderness until it again went into the sea. At last perhaps a way would be found into the home of the dead, and the ghost would have a place in which to live, or it might make the round through the wilderness again and again, until it could leap from a bluff, or fall from a rotten branch of the breadfruit-tree.

A great caterpillar was the watchman on the eastern side of the leaping-off place. Napaha was the western boundary. A mo-o (dragon) was the watchman on that side. If the ghost was afraid of them it went back to secure the help of the ghost-gods in order to get by. The Hawaiians were afraid that these watchmen would kill ghosts if possible.

If a caterpillar obstructed the way it would raise its head over the edge of the bluff, and then the frightened ghost would go far out of its way, and wandering around be destroyed or compelled to leap off some dead branch into eternal darkness. But if that frightened ghost, while wandering, could find a helpful ghost god, it would be kept alive, although still a

wanderer over the islands.

At the field of kaupea (coral) near Barbers Point, in the desert of Puuloa, the ghosts would go around among the lehua flowers, catching spiders, butterflies, and insects for food, where the ghost-gods might find them and give them aid in escaping the watchmen.

There are many places for the Leina-a-ka-uhane (leaping-off-places) and the Ulu-o-lei-walo (breadfruit-trees) on all the islands. To these places the wandering desolate ghosts went to find a way to the Under-world.

Another name for the wandering ghosts was lapu, also sometimes called Akua-hele-loa (great travellers). These ghosts were frequently those who enjoyed foolish, silly pranks. They would sweep over the old byways in troops, dancing and playing. They would gather around the old mats where the living had been feasting, and sit and feast on imaginary food.

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The Hawaiians say: "On one side of the island Oahu even to this day the lapu come at night. Their ghost drum and sacred chants can be heard and their misty forms seen as they hover about the ruins of the old heiaus (temples)."

The fine mists or fogs of Manoa Valley were supposed t(conceal a large company of priests and their attendants while roaming among the great stones which still lie where then was a puu-honua (refuge-temple) in the early days. If any one saw these roving ghosts he was called lapu-ia, or one to whom spirits had appeared.

The Hawaiians said: "The lapu ghosts were not supposed to watch over the welfare of the persons they met. They never went into the heavens to become black clouds , bringing rain for the benefit of their households. They did not go out after winds to blow with destructive force against their enemies. This was the earnest work of the ancestor-ghosts, and was not done by the lapu."

Another name for ghosts was wai-lua, which referred especially to the spirit leaving the body and supposed to have been seen by some one. This wai-lua spirit could be driven back into the body by other ghosts, or persuaded to come back through offerings or incantations given by living friends, so that a dead person could become alive again.

It was firmly believed that a person could endure many deaths, and that if any one lost consciousness he was dead, and that when life stopped it was because the spirit left the body. When life was renewed it was because the spirit had returned to its former home.

The kino-wai-lua was a ghost leaving the body of a living person and returning after a time, as when any one fainted.

Besides the ghosts of the dead, the Hawaiians gave spirit power to all natural objects. Large stones were supposed to have dragon power sometimes.

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Hondurans Are Terrified Of Teddy Bears, And When You Hear The Reason, You Will Be Too
honduran's scared of teddy bears

Posted in: World Posted: May 15, 2015

http://www.inquisitr.com/2091376/hondurans-are-terrified-of-teddy-bears-and-when-you-hear-the-reason-you-will-be-too/

Teddy bears are a symbol of safety. They can be a security blanket for a child who is afraid to stay in bed at night. Often times, teddy bears or any stuffed animals are a sign of what we loved about childhood. However, if you are hailing a taxi on the streets of Honduras, teddy bears can have a completely different meaning.

According to a report from site ABC Spain, the appearance of a teddy bear, monkey, or some other stuffed animal attached to the front of a taxi or hanging by its neck from a rearview mirror could suggest that driver pays 'rent' to various gangs. It seems to be more prevalent in the capital city of Tegucigalpa.

Another rumor around social media in Honduras is if a teddy bear is present the taxi driver may not be paying extortion money, but they are willing to cooperate with a gang member that is looking to rob the taxi cab's occupants.

- #BOMBA RT Taxis con peluches enfrente no pagan impuesto de guerra y permiten que los mareros ingresen y asalten! pic.twitter.com/iI1bGKwqaS
  - — Noti Bomba (@NotiBombahn) May 1, 2015

Police and, of course, cabbies say these claims are false. It has gotten to be such a problem that the police had to give an official statement on the matter. The spokesperson was Leonel Sauceda.

"In recent days there has been a campaign of disinformation; there are people who are trying to intimidate the population by spreading false information. There are people with bad intentions who are trying to spread these rumors to generate a negative environment and spread fear among certain parts of the population."

Despite the claims the teddy bear scare is a hoax, it has been widely documented that taxicab drivers have been the victims of extortion from local gang members. In a December, 2014, article from NPR, the site chronicles the difficulties facing cabbies in Tegucigalpa. The unnamed man described an incident that he was a part of that caused him to think twice about the profession he was in.

His first day on the job, he was approached by a young lady who handed him her cell phone. The man on the other line simply was introducing himself as a member of La Mafia, a local gang. When the taxicab driver stated he didn't want anything to do with him, his life was turned upside down. The next week, a man approached him while he was stopped and stuck a gun in his face. Fortunately, the gun misfired despite the assailant pulling the trigger twice. That was it for the man's career in the taxi service.

"Yes, I stopped working. I stopped working for a while. Actually, I stopped working for life."

What do you think? Is it a hoax, or would you stay as far away as possible from cabbies carrying a teddy bears on board? Let us know below.

House guest claimed Fall City home was 'haunted,' took $64K to...

Posted: 6:08 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, 2015

kirotv.com

Saturday, April 18, 2015 | 11:37 p.m.

House guest claimed Fall City home was 'haunted,' took $64K to rid it of spirits photo

During the six months Jason Charles Sumey lived with a Fall City family, he used the name “Steven Davidson” because he was wanted by police for failing to register as a sex offender.

KIRO 7 has learned, while Sumey was on the lam, detectives believe he cooked-up a haunted house scheme to get his hands on the family's money.

The so-called haunting lasted for months. Windows were suddenly shattered, trucks were dented, “random items would be glued down or glued to walls,” according to King County Superior Court documents.

Investigators believe the 38-year old Sumey was responsible for the more than $30,000 in damage, which started shortly after Sumey moved into the Fall City home last August to live with the homeowners' granddaughter.

Chen Saeteurn said she didn’t know her granddaughter’s boyfriend was in trouble with the law until he was arrested in February. The family members also didn’t know their house guest’s real name. “We didn’t know,” Saeteurn told KIRO 7’s Amy Clancy. “We thought he was a good guy.”

According to court documents, the "strange happenings" also included faucets turning on by themselves and food coloring "splattered across carpets, walls and furniture." Sumey started multiple fires on the lawn surrounding the home, which he claimed would fight evil, but promised his "uncle" could get rid of the “spirits” for good --- for a fee. Over the course of four months, the family paid Sumey $64,452.

Sumey “used deception in order to trick the family into believing something that he knew was not in fact true,” King County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Sgt. Stan Seo told KIRO 7.

“What we believe he was doing was targeting vulnerable individuals and exploiting their belief system.”

Sumey has a long criminal history for theft by deception, rape and failing to register as a sex offender.

Investigators believe Sumey could have multiple victims who know him as "Steve Davidson" or another alias.

Meanwhile, Saeteurn said her family hasn’t had any problems with “spirits” since Sumey was arrested in February. “The bad spirits went with him,” she said.

Sumey has been charged with nine counts of theft in the second degree and malicious mischief in the first degree – domestic violence. He remains behind bars in lieu of $130,000 bail.

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Revealed: How an eminent zoologist was sacked by the Natural History Museum after declaring he had seen Nessie with his own eyes - and spent decades trying to prove conspiracy of silence

06:58 EST, 18 April 2015 dailymail.co.uk

Monday, Apr 20th 2015

Revealed: How an eminent zoologist was sacked by the Natural History Museum after declaring he had seen Nessie with his own eyes - and spent decades trying to prove conspiracy of silence

- **Dr Denys Tucker was an eminent fish expert at Natural History Museum**
- **Rose quickly through the ranks, but in 1959 claimed to have seen Nessie**
- **Claim saw him fired, and start seven-year legal fight to win position back**
- **Tried to sue Archbishop of Canterbury and Speaker of House of Commons**
- **Ultimately failed but until his death believed his claims had been silenced**

By Chris Pleasance for MailOnline

Dr Denys Tucker was an eminent zoologist at the Natural History Museum until in 1959 he claimed to have spotted Nessie, leading to him being sacked

Dr Denys Tucker is not a name familiar to us today, but 56 years ago he was an eminent zoologist at the Natural History Museum whose star was very much in the ascendancy.

Their youngest researcher by a decade, he was an expert in fish who was praised by his colleagues - until he claimed to have seen the Loch Ness monster, leading to him being sacked.

Now new papers released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal details of his seven-year legal battle to be reinstated, including attempts to sue the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr Tucker began his academic career after serving in the Second World War as a pilot, joining the Natural History Museum in 1949 as a scientific officer in department of zoology.

He rose quickly to the rank of senior in 1951, and then principal scientific officer by 1957.

A favourite of senior academics, his bosses once said: 'Most people who know him would agree that in intelligence he is to be classed with a few of our most brilliant colleagues.'

However, all that changed in 1959 when, after a trip to Scotland, he claimed to have seen an 'unnamed animal' breach the surface of Loch Ness.

He wrote a letter to New Scientist magazine saying that the creature could only have been an

Elasmosaurus, a subspecies of long-necked dinosaurs that roamed the earth 80 million years ago.

Announcing his findings to the public, he concluded: 'I am quite satisfied that we have in Loch Ness one of the most exciting and important findings of British zoology today.'

While his announcement certainly fired the public imagination, and sparked three decades of academic research into the loch, his superiors at the museum were less than impressed.

According to documents seen by The Independent, Dr Tucker was asked whether his new interest in Nessie was a 'suitable topic' for a lead researcher to be involved with.

Questions began to be asked about his previous work and his shadowy disciplinary record, which allegedly included speculating about the sex lives of colleagues, and waving a pistol at a superior.

The final straw came in 1960 as Dr. Morrison-Scott was appointed the new director of the Natural History Museum, and decided that Dr Tucker had to go.

The sudden dismissal so shocked Dr Tucker that he decided to launch a legal campaign to be reinstated which included suing the trustees of the museum in person.

While today that would mean dragging a bunch of academics into court, back in 1960 it meant launching cases against Archbishop Lord Fisher, then head of the Church of England, Harry Hylton-Foster, then Speaker of the House of Commons, two viscounts, and a marquess.

This caused deep consternation in the corridors of power, with officials keen to shut the case down, worrying that if he won they would be stopped from firing a civil servant ever again.

Scroll down for video

Dr Tucker then began an untimately failed seven-year legal bid to win his job back, which included suing the Archbishop of Canterbury (pictured, a famous 1934 pictured of 'Nessie' that was proved a fake)

After leaving the museum (pictured), Dr Tucker never held an academic post again, and died in France in 2009, still convinced he had seen the monster, and equally convinced that his evidence had been silenced

Despite determined efforts by the government to keep senior figures out of the witness box, the case made it all the way to the Court of Appeal, before finally being tossed out.

Dr Tucker never held an academic post again, and remained convinced that the establishment were involved in an attempt to cover up his findings at Loch Ness.

Following the collapse of his court case he settled in Wimbledon, writing reviews and papers, before moving to France, where he died in 2009.

SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS 'SIGHTINGS' OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

Since the most famous photograph of Nessie emerged in 1934, thousands of other people have claimed to have seen and photographed the elusive creature.

From long-necked animals poking their head above the loch, to strange humps breaking the surface, and mysterious patches of disturbed water, all of them claim to offer glimpses of the beast that lurks beneath the waves.

Dr Tucker's claims to have seen the dinosaur-like animal in 1959 caused much debate, and even today, sighting continue to intrigue people from across the globe.

In 2001 semi-retired photographer James Gray and friend Peter Levings took this while they were out fishing

This picture, said to show the monster, was taken by Hugh Gray in 1933 and published in the Daily Express

A close-up of what could be the Loch Ness Monster. The photo was taken by William Jobes in 2011

Tourists taking pictures of Loch Ness earlier this year swear they spotted the elusive monster, but were too mesmerised to photograph it, instead capturing the moment after it dived under (pictured)

Comments (134)

Noggin The Nog, Liverpool, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Jocques Cousteau.....

steveh2731, MALVERN, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Isn't it a bit curious that all these Nessie stories start to surface at the beginning of a new tourism season in Scotland?..I blame the wee lassie in a helmet!

Waheedul Haque, Manchester, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

I also saw nessie today. Sadly it ate me and now i have no wifi and now i have to use my mobile data

Hobo, Perth, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

He might be right. After all, that intelligent family of bears from Peru turned out to be true. Looks like the same guy and backstory to me.

zedman47, grimsby, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Whizzle, Wokingham, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

It must have gills otherwise it would always be popping up for a quick breath of fresh air and blowing off spent air like whales, and would be seen by anyone with a couple of hours to spare.

LERENARD, Love n Light, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

We have a long tradition of establishment cover ups which continues to this day. The truth can be so inconvenient for some !

Andy HB, Hebden Bridge, about 8 hours ago

Maybe, but not about mythical monsters.

scdixon, emporia, about 11 hours ago

It is an oar fish.

Andy HB, Hebden Bridge, about 8 hours ago

no - they're marine fish

Noggin The Nog, Liverpool, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Are you sure its not a Salmond....or a Sturgeon?? ;-)

, emporia, about 11 hours ago

It's an oar fish.

martylauri, Birmingham, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Actually he was right because I was there the day we saw it, it was big and monster like and really scary and it had big teeth and a long neck and went "Raarrrr" then it came over to us we stroked it and went for a ride on his back, then we shared our cucumber sandwiches (he preferred the salmon), but we didn't mind. Then we said goodbye and he said "Raarrr Raarr" again, and then he went under the water again...so that was that.

JJherself, Northampton, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Someone once said Iraq had WMD, in fact he even had his advisers write it down I do believe... and then based on that truth, took us into war to prove his point... then, sat back in a cushy job making millions while the sickness and evil he created, ran throughout the world... still does... yet, he is still considered sane enough to interview, to ask to advice not only for us, but by others all around the world! Now, that's delusion... I prefer the guy who saw Nessie with his own eyes... Him I believe!

Tuxedocat, Spalding, about 7 hours ago

I think I would quite like you JJherself!

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How can a 9th-century 'Leechbook' be relevant today?

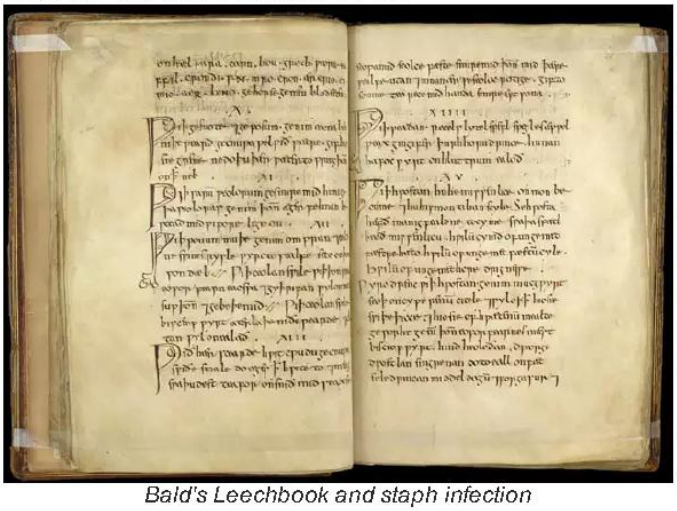
mnn.com

Sunday, April 12, 2015

A 1,000-year-old doctors' manual holds the key to an infection that kills roughly 5,000 people a year.

By: Douglas MacGowan

Fri, Apr 10, 2015 at 02:36 PM



Bald's Leechbook and staph infection

"Bald's Leechbook" is not a book about blood-sucking worms. It's a medieval tome written in Anglo-Saxon, probably during the ninth century, which outlines the practices of English doctors (sometimes referred to as "leeches" at the time) concerning care and treatment of a variety of human maladies. The book can now be found in London's British Library.

The title comes from an inscription found in the middle of the book:

"Bald is the owner of this book that he ordered [the scribe] Cild to create. Earnestly I beg all people in the name of Christ that no deceitful man shall take this book from me by force or by any falsehoods. Because no treasure is as precious to me as my books…."

The treatments within this oddly named book might have remained ancient medical curiosities had it not been for a surprising discovery earlier this year. British scientists determined almost by accident that a treatment for an eye infection in the "Leechbook" worked as an effective treatment for a certain type of staph infection, a superbug that caused the deaths of roughly 5,000 people in the United States in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The treatment in question (a mixture of garlic, wine, onion and the bile from a cow boiled in a brass container then left to sit for nine days), was tested at the University of Nottingham's Center for Biomolecular Sciences as well as Texas Tech University, and researchers were surprised at the effectiveness of the concoction, which killed up to 90 percent of MRSA, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, bacteria.

Obviously more testing will need to be done, but the initial results have researchers pleased but puzzled. But you can't argue with success. So what other secrets does this ancient book hold?

Some other archaic medical treatments include:

Headaches: Bind a sample of crosswort to the head with a red cloth.

Chilblains: Create a concoction of eggs, fennel root and wine and spread liberally.

Shingles: This can be treated by a salve made from the bark of 15 types of trees including ash, oak, and apple.

Male impotence: Drinking sticklewort (agrimony) boiled in milk. Boiling the same plant in ale, however, will have the opposite effect.

Excessive bleeding: Apply horse dung to the wound.

Toothache: Place a burning candle as close to the affected tooth as possible in order for the heat to force the worms, causing the pain to crawl out of the tooth.

Bubonic plague: Cut open the sores and apply a paste made from garlic and butter.

Coughs and minor abscesses: Apply balsam. This cure can also be used for "fever (and) apparitions (of) all delusions."

Kidney stones: Apply a treatment salve of honey and pigeon droppings.

The most bizarre cures, however, were inflicted on the mentally ill. Treatments for all kinds of psychological disorders included drinking petroleum, being whipped with a cord made of dolphin or porpoise skin, and a religious ritual: concoct a complicated mixture including fennel and a variety of leek and then "let Masses be sung over it, let it be made of foreign ale and of holy water; let him drink this … for nine mornings … and let him give alms and … pray to God for His mercies."

The "Leechbook" even included instructions on performing surgery for correcting a hare lip: "pound mastic [resin from a mastic tree] very small, add an egg white…cut with a knife the edges of the lip, sew with silk, then smear the salve inside and outside or the silk will rot."

But for now, researchers are going to focus their attention on the MRSA salve.

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XII. How Milu Became The King of Ghosts

HOW MILU BECAME THE KING OF GHOSTS

LONO was a chief living on the western side of the island Hawaii. He had a very red skin and strange-looking eyes. His choice of occupation was farming. This man had never been sick. One time he was digging with the oo, a long sharp-pointed stick or spade. A man passed and admired him. The people said, "Lono has never been sick." The man said, "He will be sick."

Lono was talking about that man and at the same time struck his oo down with force and cut his foot. He shed much blood, and fainted, falling to the ground. A man took a pig, went after the stranger, and let the pig go, which ran to this man. The stranger was Kamaka, a god of healing. He turned and went back at the call of the messenger, taking some popolo fruit and leaves in his cloak. When he came to the injured man he asked for salt, which he pounded into the fruit and leaves and placed in coco cloth and bound it on the wound, leaving it a long time. Then he went away.

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As he journeyed on he heard heavy breathing, and turning saw Lono, who said, "You have helped me, and so I have left my lands in the care of my friends, directing them what to do, and have hastened after you to learn how to heal other people."

The god said, "Lono, open your mouth!" This Lono did, and the god spat in his mouth, so that the saliva could be taken into every part of Lono's body. Thus a part of the god became a part of Lono, and he became very skilful in the use of all healing remedies. He learned about the various diseases and the medicines needed for each. The god and Lono walked together, Lono receiving new lessons along the way, passing through the districts of Kau, Puna, Hilo, and then to Hamakua.

The god said, "It is not right for us to stay together. You can never accomplish anything by staying with me. You must go to a separate place and give yourself up to healing people."

Lono turned aside to dwell in Waimanu and Waipio Valleys and there began to practise healing, becoming very noted, while the god Kamaka made his home at Ku-kui-haele.

This god did not tell the other gods of the Medicines that he had taught Lono. One of the other gods, Kalae, was trying to find some way to kill Milu, and was always making him

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sick. Milu, chief of Waipio, heard of the skill of Lono. Some had been sick even to death, and Lono had healed them. Therefore Milu sent a messenger to Lono who responded at once, came and slapped Milu all over the body, and said: "You are not ill. Obey me and you shall be well."

Then he healed him from all the sickness inside the body caused by Kalae. But there was

danger from outside, so he said: "You must build a ti-leaf house and dwell there quietly for some time, letting your disease rest. If a company should come by the house making sport, with a great noise, do not go out, because when you go they wilt come up and get you for your death. Do not open the ti leaves and look out. The day you do this you shall die."

Some time passed and the chief remained in the house, but one day there was the confused noise of many people talking and shouting around his house. He did not forget the command of Lono. Two birds were sporting in a wonderful way in the sky above the forest. This continued all day until it was dark.

Then another long time passed and again Waipio was full of resounding noises. A great bird appeared in the sky resplendent in all kinds of feathers, swaying from side to side over the valley, from the top of one precipice across to

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the top of another, in grand flights passing over the heads of the people, who shouted until the valley re-echoed with the sound.

Milu became tired of that great noise and could not patiently obey his physician, so he pushed aside some of the ti leaves of his house and looked out upon the bird. That was the time when the bird swept down upon the house, thrusting a claw under Milu's arm, tearing out his liver. Lono saw this and ran after the bird, but it flew swiftly to a deep pit in the lava on one side of the valley and dashed inside, leaving blood spread on the stones. Lono came, saw the blood, took it and wrapped it in a piece of tapa cloth and returned to the place where the chief lay almost dead. He poured some medicine into the wound and pushed the tapa and blood inside. Milu was soon healed.

The place where the bird hid with the liver of Milu is called to this day Ke-ake-o-Milu ("The liver of Milu"). When this death had passed away he felt very well, even as before his trouble.

Then Lono told him that another death threatened him and would soon appear. He must dwell in quietness.

For some time Milu was living in peace and quiet after this trouble. Then one day the surf of Waipio became very high, rushing from far out even to the sand, and the people entered

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into the sport of surf-riding with great joy and loud shouts. This noise continued day by day, and Milu was impatient of the restraint and forgot the words of Lono. He went out to bathe in the surf.

When he came to the place of the wonderful surf he let the first and second waves go by, and as the third came near he launched himself upon it while the people along the beach shouted uproariously. He went out again into deeper water, and again came in, letting the first and second waves go first. As he came to the shore the first and second waves were hurled back from the shore in a great mass against the wave upon which he was riding. The two great

masses of water struck and pounded Milu, whirling and crowding him down, while the surfboard was caught in the raging, struggling waters and thrown out toward the shore. Milu was completely lost in the deep water.

The people cried: "Milu is dead! The chief is dead!" The god Kalae thought he had killed Milu, so he with the other poison-gods went on a journey to Mauna Loa. Kapo and Pua, the poison-gods, or gods of death, of the island Maui, found them as they passed, and joined the company. They discovered a forest on Molokai, and there as kupua spirits, or ghost bodies, entered into the trees of that forest, so the trees

{p. 99}

became the kupua bodies. They were the medicinal or poison qualities in the trees.

Lono remained in Waipio Valley, becoming the ancestor and teacher of all the good healing priests of Hawaii, but Milu became the ruler of the Under-world, the place where the spirits of the dead had their home after they were driven away from the land of the living. Many people came to him from time to time.

He established ghostly sports like those which his subjects had enjoyed before death. They played the game kilu with polished coconut shells, spinning them over a smooth surface to strike a post set up in the centre. He taught konane, a game commonly called "Hawaiian checkers," but more like the Japanese game of "Go." He permitted them to gamble, betting all the kinds of property found in ghost-land. They boxed and wrestled; they leaped from precipices into ghostly swimming-pools; they feasted and fought, sometimes attempting to slay each other. Thus they lived the ghost life as they had lived on earth. Sometimes the ruler was forgotten and the ancient Hawaiians called the Under-world by his name--Milu. The New Zealanders frequently gave their Under-world the name "Miru." They also supposed that the ghosts feasted and sported as they had done while living.

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How to stay sane in asparagus season

How to stay sane in asparagus season

Published: 08 Apr 2015 16:21 GMT+02:00

It's that time of year again: the asparagus harvest has officially begun in Bavaria and Schleswig-Holstein. The green and white stalks will be everywhere for weeks - but how can you introduce some variety to this German traditional specialty?

Although farmers across Germany reported damage to their crops last week thanks to Hurricane Niklas, and the unseasonable cold has damaged more, there's still sure to be plenty of asparagus to go around.

The Franconian Spargel Famers' Association says that it will be around two weeks before there's a large harvest lading down the shelves at your local grocery store.

But that's no reason not to get ahead by preparing a range of recipes for Germany's most-produced vegetable.

The country grew 114,000 tonnes of the green and white stuff in 2014, with the biggest asparagus-producing states being Lower Saxony, Brandenburg and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The season continues until June 24th, so have your cookbooks ready, your ovens pre-heated and your tastebuds primed.

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Huge metal rooster found in forest following Georgia heist

yahoo.com

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Authorities say the hunt for a 10-foot metal rooster stolen from outside an Athens, Georgia, business has ended in a forest, where Rocket the Rusty Roster was discovered under a pile of wood.

Lexington Village owner Bonnie Harris says she's grateful the sculpture has been found in one piece, but it was missing an eye and his beard was gone. Harris tells The Athens Banner-Herald (http://bit.ly/1OdzrgU) that Rocket will undergo restoration work in the artist's studio where it was created.

In late March, the 300-pound sculpture was stolen about two weeks after it was installed in front of Harris' store.

Athens Clarke-County police Detective Sgt. Rick Hammond says detectives found the sculpture Monday down a logging road. No arrests have been made.

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I Saw a Dinosaur-Like Bird, Says Arizona Man - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

ELOY, Ariz. — A man on Thursday said he saw a dinosaur-like bird at a public park about 50 miles northwest of Tucson.

thunderbird arizona

28-year-old construction worker Ruben, who provided a last name but was omitted due to privacy concerns, told Cryptozoology News that he and his family were driving through the north side of Eloy, Arizona, when he spotted the large bird 13 years ago at North Park, a place dedicated to provide the city residents with sports and other forms of recreational activities.

"I saw the bird sitting on top of some over grown trees," he said about the winged creature.

The man claims the sighting lasted about 15 seconds and that they did not stop the vehicle to investigate.

"It was huge. The way I'd describe it… it was like the dinosaur bird," he explained, referring to the extinct flying reptile known as *pterosaur*, Greek for "wing lizards".

He did not mention the color of the alleged bird.

In 1890, Arizona newspaper *The Tombstone Epitaph* reported that two ranchers had allegedly killed a "winged monster" similar to an alligator in the desert between the Whetsone and Huachuca mountains.

Last week, a man claimed to have seen a similar large bird in Louisiana in the spring break of 1978.

The city of Eloy, located in Pinal County, has a population of 17,000 and is the place of birth of ex-professional football player Levi Jones.

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Iceland revokes order to 'kill Basques on sight' - The Local

24/04 thelocal.es

Iceland revokes order to 'kill Basques on sight'

Basques can now safely visit Iceland without the threat of being killed on sight. Photo: Arnar Valdimarsson/Flickr

Published: 29 Apr 2015 17:15 GMT+02:00

In a small town on the western coast of Iceland last week, authorities finally revoked a 400-year-old order that allowed Basques to be killed on sight.

For the last four centuries people hailing from the Basque Country could have been legally hunted down and killed had they dared to step foot in Iceland.

But last week, authorities finally repealed an order issued 400 years ago that led to the massacre of 32 Basque whalers.

It came about after three Basque whaling vessels entered a fjord in Iceland during the summer of 1615 after reaching an agreement with the Icelanders.

But when the ships were laden with their cargo and ready for departure they were shipwrecked in a gale.

The surviving Basque whalers made it ashore but after a conflict with locals, Ari Magnússon of Ögur, the then commissioner of the West Fjords district ordered that they be tracked down and killed.

In October 1615, 32 Basque whalers were killed by the locals, an event that to this day is the only recorded mass murder in Iceland.

When Jónas Gudmundsson, the West Fjords district commissioner, officially repealed the order on April 22nd at an event to inaugurate amemorial commemorating the 'Slaying of the Spaniards'.

The commissioner joked: "It's safe for Basques to come here now".

He added that the order had not been carried out for some years. "Of course (repealing it is) more for fun; there are laws in this country which prohibit the killing of Basques," Jónas told Icelandic newspaper, mbl.is.

The event was attended by the Basque Gipuzkoa Governor Martin Garitanoand the Icelandic Minister of Education and Culture Illugi Gunnarsson.

It also saw a ‘symbolic reconcillation’ acted out by Xabier Irujo, descendant of one of the murdered Basque whale hunters, and Magnús Rafnsson, descendant of one of the murderers, according to the Iceland Review.

Basques in Spain welcomed the move, even though it came four hundred years too late.

"The ceremony was a public homage to those Basques that were killed four centuries ago and it is a symbol of respect finally done," MP Jon Inarritu of the Basque pro-independence party Amaiur told The Local.

"The repealing of the old order that allowed the killing of Basque people is a first step to promote relations between the two European people. It’s a step of friendship and peace between two peoples," he said.

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In the Beginning - Hawaiian Gods and Their Roles in Society paulwaters.com

By Betty Fullard-Leo Photos by Les Drent

In the beginning in Hawaiian mythology, Po was a vast, empty land, a dark abyss where only one life form dwelled. This was the spirit of Keawe. A single light shown through the darkness of Po-a flame holding the energy of creation.

In this chaotic vortex, Keawe evolved order. He opened his great calabash and flung the lid into the air. As it unfolded, it became the huge canopy of blue sky. From his calabash, Keawe drew an orange disk, hanging it from the sky to become the sun.

Next Keawe manifested himself as Na Wahine, a female divinity considered his daughter. In addition, he became Kane, his own son, also known as Eli or Eli-Eli, who was the male generative force of creation. In the Kumulipo, the best known of the Hawaiian creation chants, the feats of Eli-Eli are detailed in rhythmic litany.

Na Wahine and Kane mated spiritually to produce a royal family, who became additional primary gods worshipped by the Hawaiian people. In ancient chants and rituals, three sons: Ku, Lono, and Kanaloa, along with Kane are the four major Hawaiian gods. Keawe made Kane the ruler of natural phenomena, such as the earth, stones, fresh water. Most importantly, Ku as Kukailimoku was god of war, but he also reigned over woodlands and crops, and in various forms was worshipped by craftsmen. Bird catchers and feather workers appealed to Kuhuluhulumanu, fishermen to Ku'ula, sorcerers to Kukoae, for example.

Kanaloa was responsible for the southern Pacific Ocean and as such was god of seamen and lord of fishermen. Lono, as lord of the sun and of wisdom, caused the earth to grow green. As a god of medicine, he had a particular interest in keeping herbs and medicinal plants flourishing. Lono was the god who presided over the makahiki season when war ceased and taxes were paid to the ali'i.

Kane and Na Wahine also had daughters. Among them, Laka was the goddess of hula; Hina was the mother of Maui who pulled the

Hawaiian Islands from the ocean; and Kapo was the goddess of the South Pacific and was largely worshipped on Maui. Among the major divinities was the goddess Papa, queen of nature, and the man she married, called Wakea. In legend, Papa and Wakea's first child was born deformed like a taro root. From the child's grave, the first taro plant grew to furnish sustenance to the rest of the human race, which had its origins in this first couple.

The twelfth deity was Milu, lord of the spirit world and lord of Ka-pa'a-he'o, where souls who had departed their sleeping or unconscious mortal body might end up if they were not pardoned by their 'aumakua (personal gods) during their wanderings. One of several entrances to the barren, arid land of Milu was thought to be through a pit situated in the mouth of Waipi'o Valley on the Big Island.

Each man worshipped a deity, or akua, that represented his profession. Gods existed for bird snarers, canoe makers, robbers, kapa makers, fishermen, office cleaning workers, maids, etc. Most farmers revered Lono, who was considered a benign god. When crops ripened, farmers performed religious services to the gods by building a fire to honor whichever god they worshipped, be it Ku, Kane, Lono, or Kanaloa. During the ceremony, food was cooked and portioned out to each man who sat in a circle around an idol of that particular god. A kahuna offered the food to heaven. After the ceremony was completed, the people could eat freely of the cooked food, but each time new food was cooked in the imu (underground oven), a bit of it had to be offered to the god again before the common man could eat.

Interestingly, kanaka maoli, commoners, could freely worship their personal gods, voicing their own prayers. For the ali'i (royalty), however, a kahu-akua, who was a priest or keeper of the idol, uttered the prayer. The king was the only one allowed to command the construction of a luakini (sacrificial) heiau to honor Kukailimoku, the war god, which required sacrificial offerings of human life during its construction. Lesser chiefs could build mapele, stone temples, to invoke the blessing of gods like Lono who could insure abundant crops. These temples were surrounded with posts carved with images, while inside idols carved of wood, stone or sea urchin spines, or fashioned of feathers attached to woven i'e i'e netting represented various gods. Oracle towers that jutted 20 feet into the sky held offerings made to the gods on wooden platforms far above the ground.

The old gods were disavowed just prior to the coming of Christian missionaries in 1820. Temple idols were pushed over and destroyed, but often commoners were faced with the problem of what to do with stone images that represented various gods, since neglect of the idols might cause unknown disasters. One stone god literally re-surfaced in 1885. An old man who lived with his son and a brother and sister near a fish pond in Kawaihae on the Big Island, woke them all one night, commanding his son to catch three fish from the pond. The girl was told to chew a mouthful of awa and her brother was told to climb a tree for coconuts. The old man directed them to dig in a certain place, where they uncovered a stone idol. The old man circled the idol's neck with coconuts, laid the fish in front of it and poured the awa over its mouth. He told the three young people the god's name was Kane; then he predicted his own death. In three days he was gone.

The stone idol is now displayed at Bishop Museum on O'ahu, an intriguing reminder of the mana, the power, the Hawaiian gods once embodied. Today, though the gods may have disappeared from every day life, in many Hawaiian households, they will never be completely forgotten.

Note: Varying legends and oral histories exist regarding Hawaiian gods and religions. Information for this article was gathered from: Children of the Rainbow by Leinani Melville, Hawaiian Antiquities by David Malo, The Works of the People of Old by Samual Kamakau, and Arts and Crafts of Hawai'i (Religion) by Peter H. Buck.

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Increase in demonic possession prompts Vatican to train army of exorcists | Caribbean360

caribbean360.com

Vatican guard, Vatican City (File photo)

ROME, Italy, Friday April 17, 2015 – Over four decades after the film version of William Peter Blatty's novel The Exorcist left movie-goers stunned, the Vatican is training ordinary Catholics to cope with the rapid escalation in the number of cases of demonic possession.

A team of experts, including practising exorcists, has been convened by the Vatican to equip doctors, psychologists, teachers, and the like, with the skills needed to recognise and deal with demonic possession.

One of the main purposes of the exercise is to assist would-be exorcists in distinguishing demonic possession from psychological or medical conditions, according to the organisers.

The tenth annual "Exorcism and Prayer of Liberation" course, sponsored by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, the department responsible for overseeing matters regarding priests, got underway this week at Rome's Regina Apostolorum University.

Father Pedro Barrajon, director of the Sacerdos Institute which is organising the course, said: "Living in an increasingly secularised society than in the past there is more tendency to open the door to the occult.

"Demonic activity is increased by the practice of magic and visiting fortune tellers which can increase the likelihood of a possession."

Other experts say demonic activity is on the rise as a result of increased interest in the occult among the young including ouija boards and seances.

Last year, the International Association of Exorcists referred to the trend as "a pastoral emergency."

The Vatican went on to try to introduce Holyween, a festival in which children would dress up as saints and attend prayer vigils, as an alternative to the darker celebration of Halloween.

Pope Francis has frequently expressed the belief that the devil really exists and is not merely "a myth, a figure, an idea, the idea of evil."

Two years ago, the pontiff reportedly performed an exorcism on a wheelchair-bound young man, who shook violently when Francis laid his hands on him and said a blessing.

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By Ken Summers on 10/13/2014 whofortedblog.com

Investigating the Real Ghosts of New York's Sleepy Hollow

sleepy-hollow-ghosts

For centuries, one location in the United States has captivated the collective creepy imagination. Its mere mention is enough to mentally transport us to a moonlit dirt road in dark, creepy woods. Still a favorite topic of movies and television shows, you could call it "a *ghouled* place to live", but Sleepy Hollow will suffice.

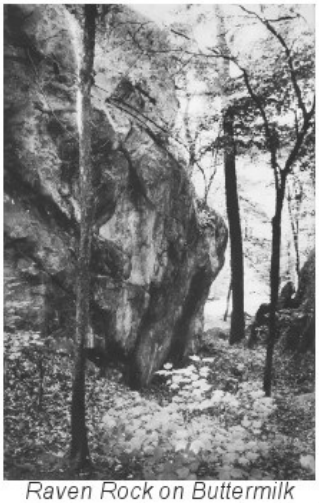
Now, Sleepy Hollow is indeed a real place. It's not the same as it was back in 1818 when Irving penned his classic American ghost story, but almost two centuries later, the town still celebrates its biggest claim to fame. Formerly known as North Tarrytown, this village was renamed Sleepy Hollow in 1996 to pay homage to Irving's story and identify itself as the home to America's very first wildly popular ghost story. But while *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* was a work of fiction, there are countless ghost stories and haunted places throughout the Hudson Valley making this spot one of the most haunted places in the country (if not the world).

When you think of New York, the legendary ghost ship known as the *Flying Dutchman* is certainly not a connection you might draw. But the ship was said to make landfall every seven years. One such place is the wide, lake-like part of the Hudson River called Tappan Zee. During terrible storms, the *Dutchman* has been reported sailing up the river. As if that's not reason enough to avoid the water, the *Manitou* (or spirits of those who've drowned in the Hudson since native times, numbering at least several hundred) are blames for the rogue waves and sudden storms very common to the waterway there. Near Donderberg Mountain, it remains a custom for sailors to tip their hats out of respect for the imp, or *dwerg*, of John Coleman, skipper to Henry Hudson who drowned there in 1609, or else face the storms he will send down to try to sink their ships. Elsewhere on the Tappan Zee, Captain Kidd and his ghostly crew of the *Adventure Galley* are believed to haunt the waters beneath Bear Mountain Bridge in search of buried treasure, and the ghost of Rambout Van Dam appears in the Sunday morning mist below the Tappan Zee Bridge as a skeleton with glowing green eyes wearing ragged clothes in a rowboat. Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne is also believed to haunt the river, patrolling for enemy ships.

Ghostly women seem to be one common theme in Sleepy Hollow as well. (And I don't mean the 'Lady in Black' said to haunt the apartments near Patriot's Park.) Sleepy Hollow's more frequently reported ghost, the Lady in White, is often seen and heard around Raven Rock. Her wailing is said to be a harbinger of oncoming winter storms. Her story, however, has a few different variations. Some say she was an Indian maiden who leapt to her death in the

Fog and storms are routine, unpredictable encounters on the Tappan Zee.

river at Raven Rock and was turned into a spirit by ravens. Another version says that an old woman was trapped in a blizzard while foraging for firewood near Spook Rock (a.k.a. Raven Rock). There is another variation which says that a woman went to the rock in her wedding dress to wait for her fiancé to return from war and froze to death in the snow; some people claim that during winter storms, you can still hear her calling, "My Beloved! Have you come for me?" Whichever version you prefer, people report floating lights crossing the cemetery on their way to Raven's Rock on Buttermilk Hill, accompanied by 'unearthly moans', before harsh winter storms approach. An old legend claims these moans emanate from Raven Rock itself stemming from an old Indian curse.



Raven Rock on Buttermilk Hill, home to many ghostly women, perhaps?

Another female spirit there is that of Mother Hulda, an old German woman living in a hut alone near the old burying grounds and Raven Rock. Though shunned by the Dutch community, her herbal remedies were always secretly in demand. In 1777 when the Redcoats marched in to Tarrytown, Mother Hulda took up her musket to defend the town. She lost her life in the battle and was buried in an unmarked paupers grave on the north wall of Old Dutch Church. There, she can still be seen wandering among the tombstones. She may have some spooky company in the form of a statue, as well. The 'Bronze Lady' of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is a statue at a mausoleum. Teenagers claim that if you sit in her lap, spit in her eye, kick her in the shins, knock on the door of the tomb, and look inside, you'll be plagued by nightmares for two weeks. Although if you ask me, that's asking for trouble. The King Mansion, at Tarrytown House Estate and Conference Center, is haunted by the white-gowned ghost of Sybil Harris King who paces the second floor hallways.

While Washington Irving's headless horseman was a fictional character, he borrowed the idea from old European legends like *The Wild Huntsman* as well as historical incidents around Tarrytown. British Major John Andre was pulled into the treasonous plot of the infamous Benedict Arnold and captured by patriots near a tulip tree along Albany Post Road. He was later hanged for his involvement on October 2, 1780. Today, a large tulip tree still grows about where that fateful moment occurred near Andre's Brook in what is today called Patriot's Park. Still today, shortly before dawn, people have reported hearing a horse galloping fast past the creek, followed by the sound of uncontrollable sobbing, said to be that of John Andre mourning over his mistakes. If legends are to be believed, the only way to stop his piteous crying is to utter the words his captors first spoke to him: "*What party are you from?*"

A popular place for weddings, the King Mansion may come with its own 'woman in white'.

Andre's Brook flows through Patriot's Park. The haunted Andre's Bridge has been replaced by several stone bridges.

But what about the headless Hessian, you ask? Well, you might be surprised to learn that there actually was one. Many Hessians fought with the British as mercenaries during the Revolutionary War. (And yes, Irving was named after General George Washington.) One of the clashes with American troops occurred just nine miles from the heart of Sleepy Hollow in what was known as the Battle of White Plains. According to a memoir written by General William Heath in 1798, a cannonball took off the head of a Hessian artilleryman during this campaign. And of all dates for this incident, it happened on Halloween of 1776. A year later, bodies strewn over the same hills were removed and it's believed that this headless Hessian's skeleton was then taken and interred among the dead at Old Dutch Burying Ground. At midnight, the headless Hessian is reported to ride his horse at the Old Dutch Church and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery even to this day. Other sightings include a headless Hessian in full uniform on Mount Airy Road near Teller's Point some ten miles north of Sleepy Hollow and yet another on Albany Post Road at the Rogers-Haight Homestead (where allegedly a soldier lost his head in an argument with another soldier over a pig).

Lastly, no list of hauntings in Sleepy Hollow would be complete without mentioning Washington Irving's hone named Sunnyside. Originally a simple tenant farmhouse built back in 1656, what Irving called "Wolfert's Roost" became his home in 1835. He remodeled it extensively, adding a Spanish monastic-inspired tower and turning the house into what resembles a Dutch mansion. But even when Irving moved in, there were whispers that the house was haunted.

Sleepy Hollow's most recognizable landmark: the Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground.

Sunnyside, the historic (and haunted) home of author Washington Irving.

After thorough renovations in 1945 made possible in part by John D. Rockefeller, Sunnyside opened as a public museum in October 1947. According to the *New York Times* article on its grand opening celebration, the centuries-old ghost story is that of a haunting by "…a young lady who wandered through the orchard. She is said to have died of love and green apples." Irving himself claimed to have seen her in an upstairs bedroom on one occasion. She may have otherworldly company, though, since Irving's five nieces are believed to haunt the house and property, tidying up the museum after it closes. Even the love of Irving's life Matilda Hoffman—tragically killed at 17 by consumption and believed to have been part of the inspiration for Katrina van Tassel—is said to still peek at visitors from behind trees in the old orchard. The home's original owner, Wolfert Acker, also haunts the same orchard.

Yet the second best-known ghost of Sunnyside is none other than Washington Irving himself. In 1843, Irving wrote, "I really believe that when I die I shall haunt it [Sunnyside]; but it will be as a good spirit, that no one needs to be afraid of." An "amiable ghost", Irving has been witnessed in his former bedroom where he died on November 28, 1859, as well as his study. Whether or not it's quite considered amiable, it's believed that Irving's ghost has a habit of occasionally pinching the butts of women. Forever the ladies' man, I guess.

As if that weren't enough ghosts, every April 25th, the spectral Lincoln Funeral Train is said to roll past the estate on the old Hudson River Railroad line making its annual spooky pilgrimage to Springfield, Illinois, as it has since 1865.

1. owl

12/09/2014 at 4:49 AM

for the record tarrytown isn't actually the "real" setting of the legend of sleepy hollow; it's an amalgam of that town and the town of kinderhook, where washington irving met schoolteacher jesse merwin, the model for ichabod crane. katrina van tassel was based on a young lady from the van aluyn family, also of kinderhook. the "ichabod crane schoolhouse" where jesse merwin used to teach has been moved to the land of the van aluyn house for preservation but when i was a kid growing up in the area everybody knew which bridge over the kinderhook creek was the one ichabod had taken, and all that shit. kinderhook and valatie (they're two villages in the same township) have their own share of ghosts, too – a few are summed up in this nytimes article http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/13/realestate/13ghost.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

as a kinderhook native it really annoys me that everyone else in the country just goes "oooh tarrytown that's a real place on the map so it's the only thing i need to talk about when i'm talking about sleepy hollow" even though i know it's understandable

- Ken Summers

12/09/2014 at 3:46 PM

I completely understand, and I was trying to gloss over the true story behind the legend and skip right to the real ghost stories (since the facts behind the legend have been widely written about already). Like any good story, the Legend combined pieces of various people, places, and ghost stories from the whole area.

While I lump things under the Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown title, these ghost stories encompass a wide stretch of the Hudson Valley and several small towns. (Sunnyside isn't even in the village of Sleepy Hollow itself; the same goes for the Tappan Zee Bridge and several other places.) Unfortunately, people recognize the name Sleepy Hollow and not the many other places, so for the sake of argument, I did refer to it more than the Hudson Valley as a whole in an effort to avoid making this article incredibly long.

For a further breakdown of the area (including a map of these and other similar places), I highly recommend Jonathan Kruk's book 'Legends and Lore of Sleepy Hollow and the Hudson Valley' where several of these tales were found. Kruk goes into great detail explaining the origins of the Legend as well, sorting fact from rumor.

2. Duke Sweden

02/04/2015 at 8:42 AM

"When you think of New York, the legendary ghost ship known as the Flying Dutchman is certainly not a connection you might draw. But the ship was said to make landfall every seven years. One such place is the wide, lake-like part of the Hudson River called Tappan Zee."

I went to Tappan Zee High School in Orangetown in the '60's, across the river from Sleepy Hollow. Our school's teams were known as The Flying Dutchmen. Now I know why.

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Investigators puzzled by casket found on Brooklyn street

BARRY PADDOCK

nydailynews.com

BY Barry Paddock
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 1:53 PM

Adams IV, James Monroe (Freelanc/Freelance, NYDN

A coffin containing human hand and foot bones along with a pile of garbage was found on Piling St. in Bushwick, which is near the Evergreens Cemetery. There were no signs of grave tampering at the cemetery.

Investigators are trying to determine how a coffin containing human remains and a pile of garbage wound up on a Brooklyn street.

The city medical examiner has confirmed the hand and foot bones in the casket discovered on Pilling St. next to the Evergreens Cemetery in Bushwick around 6 a.m. Tuesday are human, officials said Wednesday.

The coffin appears to have been underground for at least 25 years before being unearthed recently and stuffed with trash, police said. But investigators have found no signs of grave tampering in the nearby 166-year-old cemetery.

The medical examiner is continuing to scrutinize the remains.

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Iran bans ‘homosexual’ hairstyles (and ones which make you worship Satan)

Rob WaughRob Waugh for Metro.co.uk
Wednesday 6 May 2015 2:59 pm

http://metro.co.uk/2015/05/06/iran-bans-homosexual-hairstyles-and-ones-which-make-you-worship-satan-5184122/

If you have a spiky, feathered haircut, you are probably homosexual and may well be in league with the devil.

That’s the measured view of Iran’s religious authorities, who have clamped down on spiky haircuts, with the view that they encourage homosexuality and Satanism.

Hardliners previously banned ponytails and mullets, but young people simply moved on to floppy fringes and Eighties-style quiffs.

Mostafa Govahi, the head of Iran’s barbers’ union said,’Devil-worshipping hairstyles are forbidden.

‘Any shop that cuts hair in the devil worshipping style will be harshly dealt with and their licence revoked.

‘Tattoos, solarium treatments and plucking eyebrows are also forbidden.’

Irish faith healer offers to give Scotland the edge in Euro 2016 qualifier dailyrecord.co.uk

Irish faith healer offers his mystical powers to give Scotland team the edge over his countrymen in Euro 2016 qualifier

- 09:37, 19 April 2015
- By Derek Alexander

NIALL GERRARD has offered his healing powers to Gordon Strachan's side ahead of their crucial Euro 2016 qualifier in Dublin after amazing clients across the world.

Alasdair MacLeod

Faith healer Niall Gerrard

AN IRISH faith healer wants to give the Scotland team the edge over his countrymen – by using his mystical powers to help them qualify for Euro 2016.

Niall Gerrard says he's convinced he can boost Gordon Strachan's men before they take on Ireland in a crucial group match.

Scotland travel to Dublin's Croke Park in June. A Scots victory would virtually end Irish hopes in the tournament.

But Niall, 58, says he isn't worried about being branded a traitor in his homeland and wants to turbo-charge the Scots.

He's already treated players at a Welsh rugby club where the boss says he wiped out their injury list and helped them to promotion.

Niall said: "I can clear up any injuries the Scotland players might have in the build-up to the game.

"After a couple of sessions with me, they would have increased power and stamina.

"The players won't just be running faster – they'll be running for longer.

"This might not go down well in Ireland but people there close themselves off to this sort of thing. It freaks them out.

"So I've had to take my skills elsewhere and I'm offering my services to the Scotland team. I'd love to help them.

"It would take a few days to get everything right. I couldn't just turn up before kick-off.

"I know people are sceptical. But I wouldn't make a fool of myself by offering to do things I'm not capable of doing."

Dubliner Niall, whose only qualification is a Reiki certificate, was told he had healing powers by a psychic several years ago.

He now lives in London but has travelled all over Europe and the US demonstrating his healing powers.

He also set up a clinic in Bulgaria where he's appeared on TV and he's also posted video clips of himself in action on YouTube.

Publicity shots for his business show him juggling a mysterious ball of light.

Niall spent a season working with Wrexham Rugby Club in 2012.

Director of rugby Rob Thomas said: "At first, everyone was sceptical but we thought we'd see what he can do.

"We had players with all sorts of injuries but he helped them recover.

"I had a cruciate injury and he certainly alleviated my problems.

"We got promotion the year Niall was with us. Our players seemed to respond to whatever it is he can do."

One of Niall's clients, Chicago lawyer Edward Mogul, who had difficulty walking following a stroke, added: "I've seen him do things I didn't think were possible."

An SFA spokesman said: "We're grateful for Niall's offer of help.

"But we're sure the boost a positive result in Dublin would give our Euro 2016 prospects will be sufficient motivation to continue our improving performances in this qualifying group."

Niall last week demonstrated his skills to powerlifters at Dumbarton's Marinecraft Gym.

Gym president Darren McCarroll said: "Half the lifters in the gym are injured so were willing to give anything a chance.

"I've had pain in my shoulder for years but Niall managed to get rid of it.

"One of the other boys said he had done more for him than painkillers.

"Everyone was totally amazed."

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Is it real? Penn State's Nittany Lion hide sampled for DNA sequencing

By Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com | Follow on Twitter on April 29, 2015 at 11:50 AM, updated April 29, 2015 at 1:20 PM

pennlive.com

Penn State honors student Maya Evanitsky takes a sample of fur from the Nittany Lion for DNA sequencing.
Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com
"I was very aware of the value of the specimen, how much it means to Penn State." - Maya Evanitsky

The Penn State Nittany Lion's proper branch on the mountain lion family tree is being sought by a team led by a Penn State honors students.

Schreyer Honors College junior Maya Evanitsky, assistant professor of anthropology and biology George Perry and a team of undergraduate students plan to sequence DNA from a sample of preserved hide from the taxidermy-mounted Nittany Lion.

While most fans identify the costumed two-legged mascot at the Nittany Lion, the original was an eastern mountain lion killed by farmer Samuel Brush in Susquehanna County in northeastern Pennsylvania in 1856.

The taxidermy mount of that animal has been on display in the Penn State All-Sports Museum at Beaver Stadium since 2011, when it was moved there from Pattee Library's front entrance, where it had stood since 1996. .

The glass case around the mount was opened recently, for the first time, to allow Evanitsky to cut a two-inch sample from the inside of one hind leg of the Nittany Lion.

She said the animal's coat had "a very tough, hid-like quality to it. It was like trying to cut carpet."

And, there was the fact that she was working on THE Nittany Lion.

"I was very nervous about doing any damage," recalled Evanitsky. "I was very aware of the value of the specimen, how much it means to Penn State, as well as the scientific value of it."

She said the team is hoping the Penn State Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences Genomics Core Laboratory, which previously uncovered the genome for woolly mammoths, Neanderthals and other extinct species, will be able to extract DNA from the sample.

Evanitsky explained, "The ultimate goal is to sequence the DNA and compare that to DNA sequences in genes of populations of current mountain lions" in California and Florida. We're hoping to compare how diverse the species has become and how much they've differentiated over time."

She's also requested samples from two other taxidermy mounts of eastern mountain lions, which are believed to have gone extinct in Pennsylvania in 1874: one in the Ecology Lab in Science Hall at Albright College in Reading and one at the Lycoming County Historical Society and Taber Museum in Williamsport.

Using the advanced technology available in the lab at University Park, the biochemistry and molecular

biology major from and her team will compare the DNA from the eastern samples with various other ancient lion samples including mountain lions that currently live in the western U.S. and Florida.

Evanitsky hopes to have all samples sequenced by fall 2015 and then to spend the fall semester writing her thesis on her findings.

To pay for the $12,000 project, Evanitsky launched a crowdfunding campaign with a deadline of May 6 to gather tax-deductible donations at USEED@PennState.

Mountain lions were once widespread across North America, but their range shrunk dramatically as they were pursued through unregulated hunting and by farmers aiming to protect their livestock, and moved off the landscape by habitat fragmentation.

According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the last Pennsylvania mountain lion was killed in the late 1800s, and the northeastern U.S. population is thought to have disappeared in the 1930s.

However, many people believe some naturally occurring mountain lions still live in remote spots of Pennsylvania and some believe they have encountered the animals in recent years, although no physical evidence has surfaced to confirm those reports.

The Nittany Lion mount is very well-traveled, having been displayed for a few years in Old Main at University Park before heading to the world's fairs in Chicago in 1983 and St. Louis in 1904, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. It then spent nearly 40 years in the basement of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

In 1992, Penn State Professor of Wildlife Conservation Richard Yahner heard about the lion in storage at the Carnegie Museum and arranged to have it brought back to central Pennsylvania. Lack of proper care had left the specimen in such poor shape that it required careful restoration by a skilled conservator.

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Is this photograph proof fairies exist?

mirror.co.uk

- 13:16, 6 May 2015
- By David Raven , David Keane

Mum of two Lisa Wildgoose had been taking snaps in the ancient Bluebell Woods near her Towcester, Northampton, home when she captured the incredible image

Mercury

Mystery: Can you spot the 'fairy'?

This spellbinding picture shows a fairy caught on camera for the first time, according to the mum who took the image.

Lisa Wildgoose took her camera out to a nearby forest and was snapping away at flowers when she captured the incredible sight.

It was only when she returned home and uploaded the pictures to her computer that she spotted the mysterious flying figure.

Mercury

Amazing: The 'fairy' captured on camera

A tiny winged figure can clearly be seen hovering near a drooping bluebell, and she claims when enlarged, it looks like blonde hair and little trousers are visible.

Lisa, 42, from Northampton, said: "As a little girl I grew up believing in fairies and Tinkerbell is my favourite film so I would love it be a real-life fairy.

"I don't know if Tinkerbell would really wear trousers but with the blonde hair and shiny shoes it's too much of a coincidence!"

Hovering: The tiny creature can be seen flying

Lisa had been out in Bluebell Woods doing a shoot for a family the day before and decided to return to do her own shoot the next day after seeing how beautiful the woods were.

It was later that evening when she was going through the pictures that she spotted the creature in the picture - and immediately called her girls down to have a look.

Mia and Madison, both five, took one look at the picture and said 'that's not a fly Mum, that's a fairy!'.

Mercury

Mercury

Zoom: A blown up version shows the mystery human-like creature

Lisa, who launched her own photography company Wildgoose Photograhics last September, said: "I was really shocked and freaked out at first. I thought it was probably just a fly, which it might well be, but when the girls saw it, there was no doubt in their mind.

"They don't have to try and convince me. In their mind their mum has always believed in fairies.

"They have often asked me if I believe and I always tell them I do - I suppose it's just the little girl in me that would love it to be true!

"People have said it's just a mosquito or a midge - and they are probably right - but I just think it's too much of a coincidence that it is wearing what looks like trousers and shoes."

Mercury

Happy snapper: Lisa Wildgoose and her two children

Friends and family have already expressed their amazement at the picture.

Lisa said: "All the mums at the school have said it is a fairy - I think everyone just likes to believe in that bit of magic that reminds them of being a child.

"It certainly made my day capturing the image."

Lisa previously worked as a professional motor sport photographer at Silverstone but took a break for a few years to work as a hairdresser.

She bought her DSLR camera in 2013 and after having success photographing gardens and portraits, she launched Wildgoose Photographics to specialise in this field.

You can visit her website here.

Flying: These winged-creatures dance in the air

MEN Syndication

University lecturer John Hyatt claims to have captured images of the mythical creatures in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire, last year.

He snapped images of what he claims are the tiny winged creatures whilst out photographing the Lancashire landscape over the last two years.

Last year Marks & Spencer used fairies to star in their successful Christmas advertising campaign.

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Is this the brightest goat in North Wales? Goat not ghost responsible for turning lights on in barn

mirror.co.uk

- 19:18, 8 April 2015
- By Sam Yarwood

Jake, who lives at Coleg Cambria's Northop campus really knows how to use his head

Coleg Cambria

Clever boy: Jake

A farm animal fooled college staff into thinking they were being haunted by ghosts.

Turning off lights to save energy is common practice at Coleg Cambria's Northop campus in North east Wales yet caretakers kept reporting lights were regularly being left on in the rare breeds centre's goat barn.

But staff were adamant they are turning them off and a baffled animal centre manager Wendy Gacem began to suspect a ghost or intruders were to blame.

This week the truth was revealed after Jake the Bagot Billy Goat was caught red-handed flicking the switch, reports the Daily Post.

Staff were working in the barn when the lights came on and turned around to see Jake had climbed on his hayrack and pushed the switch with his horns!

Wendy said: "It is a relief that we do not have intruders or a ghost, and animal care staff are relieved that they are no longer being grilled about leaving lights on.

"Jake has been a cheeky character since he arrived and will often jump on to a wheelbarrow to be pushed around."

Wendy says rare breed Jake has been forgiven for his cheeky antics after becoming a proud father to twin girls last week.

A college spokesman added: "Coleg Cambria takes its responsibilities seriously by encouraging staff to reduce energy consumption.

"This has been recognised across the UK through the Carbon Trust and Green Dragon sustainability awards.

"The college is proud to be breeding this very rare goat which are classed as endangered on The Rare Breed Survival Trust Watchlist."

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Is this the world's fastest soap box racer? Boy bases homemade replica on Bristol supersonic car

May 6th 2015

bristolpost.co.uk

By The Bristol Post | Posted: May 06, 2015

Joel Blomfield meets his hero Andy Green

An inspiring partnership between a father and son brought a replica supersonic car to Bristol yesterday.

Along with his father, Joel Blomfield, nine, of Sheffield, built a soapbox racer car.

He also got to meet one of his heroes.

Joel, an aspiring engineer, saw a television show about people who endure extreme environments.

Andy Green, and RAF fighter pilot who was Chief of Staff for operations in Libya in 2011 – and one of Joel's heroes - featured on the programme.

Andy Green is currently involved in the Bloodhound project – the creation of a supersonic vehicle land vehicle yet to be completed.

After hearing about the Bloodhound vehicle, Joel was instantly eager to team up with his father to create an imitation of the Bloodhound car.

Joel said: "Now I definitely want to be an engineer. I used to want to be a footballer but this is much better."

Joel and his father, Will, a 46-year-old driving instructor, teamed up by buying items off eBay, including an old roof box to build their own car.

After two months of "lots of cold nights" working in their garage, they finally completed the vehicle, tested it and brought it down to the Tech Centre in Avonmouth to show Andy Green yesterday morning.

Although the go-kart only travels 15 to 20 mph, and it cost around £100 to build, Andy Green was still impressed.

"It was epic and awesome for Andy Green to like the car," said Joel.

"He said it was very similar to the Bloodhound car. It was the best day ever," he added.

Mr Blomfield, a driving instructor, was also proud and happy.

He said: "Joel was the visionary director, I was the grease monkey. Joel set the project direction.

"I think the project was great for me and Joel and the Bloodhound project has got a good message about engineering being a worthwhile career."

The Bloodhound vehicle will be tested in South African runway this year.

A education project is in place encouraging youngsters to get involved to follow the progress of the car's development.

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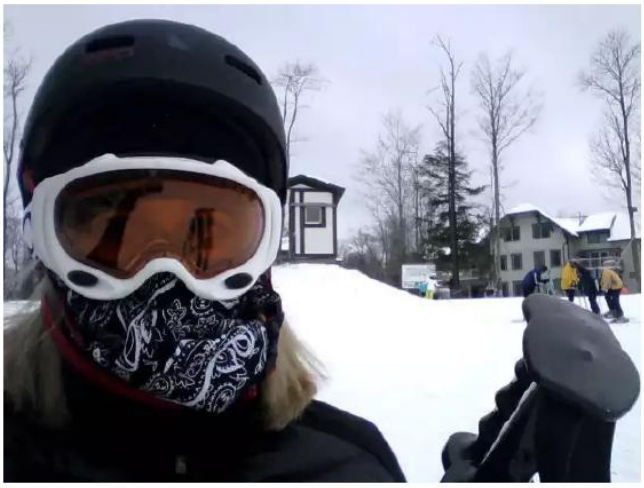
IT HAPPENED TO ME: I Fell On the Slopes, Suffered a Concussion, and It Caused Aquired Savant Syndrome

Because sometimes life literally rears up and whacks you over the head. Who would have guessed?



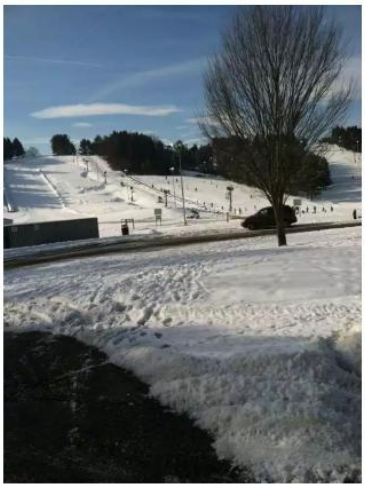
Think of every building you have ever been in. From highway rest stops in states that you've only passed through, to the well-worn halls of you high school. Think of the large places, say the Louvre, where you've walked through once 10 years ago. Think of small places, maybe your friends-cousins-girlfriend's trailer in the sticks where you went to pick up a six-pack of beer when you were in high school.

Thousands of places, with thousands of rooms, branches and doorways. And now imagine if you had the ability to draw a diagram of every single one of those buildings, down to the smallest detail, no matter how long ago you had been through them, nor how many times.

It's called savant syndrome and it's a rare mental phenomenon. My case is unique, however, because I was not born with this skill -- I acquired it.

When I was in my senior year of college, the last weekend of winter break, I took a skiing vacation with my family. Hitting the slopes was a regular thing for us; in the land of what seems to be never ending cold, you either develop an affinity for winter sports, or go mildly stir crazy. The hill I chose was covered in moguls, and in the fading, flat twilight, it was hard to see. Flat light is a skier's bane -- it destroys your depth perception, and makes navigation tricky no matter the terrain.

About halfway down the hill, at a speed that was definitely too fast, on a hill that was turning icy quick, I caught an edge and went flying. Not only did I yard-sale something fierce, but I blacked out when I hit, and the only reason I know this is because when I came to my brother was crouched next to me and before he had been at the top of the hill.



But I was OK! I was sitting up now! I wore a helmet! Sure it was banged up (read: giant dent), but I was more pissed that now I had to shell out to get a new one. My goggles were snapped in half, but miraculously still on my face, so all good right? I could feel my fingers and toes, and my vision was still there. Sure I couldn't move my left arm without searing pain, but whatever, right? There was no blood to be found, and I was only slightly delirious. Ski patrol was nowhere to be seen, so no one must have alerted them, and only a few people were yelling questions down at me from the lift. I was fine, totally fine.

WRONG. SO WRONG.

Stupidly, I decided to continue skiing because of adrenaline. I skiied despite the protests of my brother, my parents, and all the people I was with. Sure, I was in pain, but I was positive my shoulder was only

dislocated, and that was an easy fix, and nothing was broken. I wanted to vomit, and had a headache (the headache part was not uncommon for me), but I was determined to get my full day in mostly because I PAID $80 FOR THIS TICKET. I WAS GONNA FUCKING SKI.

That night was hell. I ignored the head issues, much like everyone else, in favor of the shoulder issues (turns out my collarbone was also broken). I literally drank the pain away that night at dinner, and went to bed (If you think you have a concussion, please don't do this!!! LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES PEOPLE). I woke up with what I was sure was a hangover, wrapped my dangly left arm in a sling purchased at the nearby CVS, and drove my ass back to school. I didn't go to the hospital until the next day.

In the end, after about 500 X-rays, CT scans and an MRI, I was diagnosed with a moderate concussion, as well as a badly dislocated shoulder, and a broken collarbone (but mostly I got a hardy scolding from the doctor). I was sent on my way with an actual shoulder brace, some painkillers, and the instructions to come back if I had any problems with my head.

Over the following weeks, shit got *weird*. I was still in my anti-date brace, as my roommate took to calling it, but my headaches and vision problems hadn't subsided. The weirdest thing however was the memory. Memory is a touchy son of a bitch, and something that you have to be careful about if you've suffered any type of head injury.

It was like I could see, though not in a literal sense because I was still having issues with vertigo, as well as this weird disconnect between what I was seeing and what my brain was processing. I could remember everywhere, like flicking through the pages of a book. Every place I had ever been, but specifically the buildings.

I, of course thought nothing of it (I'm not too common sense oriented most of the time), until I was hit by a complex migraine, which some of you may remember from this TV reporter. It landed me back in the hospital, and made me the most interesting thing the hospital's neurology department had seen in quite some time. I was rescanned and had to suffer some very long talks about my memory, my cognitive abilities, and whether or not I could feel my toes.

The thing I kept bringing up was my memory. I kept telling my neurologist that I could remember too much, it wasn't right.

It took about a year, and three different neurologists all communicating with each other, but finally my memory problem (or I suppose gift?) was finally addressed, and I was diagnosed with acquired savant syndrome (and I'm going to be in a medical journal that one of my neuro's is collaborating on. Pretty sure I'll get a lame moniker like Patient XYZ though…)

I am not autistic. It is a common misconception that all savants are autistic (See: Rain Man). Not so. Approximately one in 10 people with autism has savant skills, so nine out of 10 do not. Approximately one out of 1,400 people with mental retardation or CNS deficits other than autism do have savant skills, so such abilities are not limited to autistic disorder. Hence, not all autistic persons are savants, and not all savants are autistic.

Savant syndrome is different than say, eidetic memory (please don't yell at me, that link totally goes to Wikipedia, I can see my eighth grade English teacher cringing), where a person can recall images, sounds or objects after only a few moments of exposure. The difference is due to the fact that I only have the ability to call forth a certain thing (building layouts), versus the ability to call forth any type of information.

The same thing can be said for hyperthymesia, which is the ability to recall any event from your own life. You may remember this episode of "60 minutes" that interviewed people with hyperthymesia.

My case differs from the typical diagnoses of savant syndrome, since I was not born with savant

syndrome. Before the fall, I had no interests in architecture, or even buildings at all. My technical art skills were minimal; I never had any interest in drafting, nor even interior design. However, after the fall, I filled sketchbook after sketchbook with my weird “place-memories.”

Savant skills usually fall into four main categories: Music, art, calendar calculating and memorization (less commonly included is the fifth category of language). Different sources go use different terms for the categories. Memory is often left out and replaced by mechanical-spatial skills. My specific case lies in artistic skills, as I have the ability to diagram structures (specifically buildings I have been in) with ridiculous accuracy.

This applies only, however, to static spaces. I can tell you what was in the vending machine at the rest stop off the 530 between Little Rock and Texarkana, because it’s fixed point. I remember what was in there when I was there. It because of this that I still (much to my chagrin) will put my keys down in the wrong place, and forget where they are, since they are no longer at their fixed point.

Rick Owens, another person who has acquired savant syndrome says it perfectly, "I see geometry now, I see the planes, the angles," he explains. "I never understood architecture before. Now, I stop and draw it."

Oddly enough, my strange new “talent” (a.k.a. fun new life long affliction) hasn’t particular affected my life with much impact up until this point. I graduated college normally with a degree in something so far away from art and architecture it was almost jarring, and now I work a normal (shitty) desk job.

No lie though, I’m definitely, constantly mulling over the idea of quitting and going into drafting and design. At least I know I’d be good at it!

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2015

Italian police reveal what Jesus looked like as a young boy

Michael Day
Monday 04 May 2015

independent.co.uk

Using the Turin Shroud, the supposed burial cloth of Jesus, police investigators have generated a photo-fit image from the negative facial image on the material

Detectives claim to have revealed how Jesus Christ looked as a child – based on computer forensics and the world's most famous relic.

Using the Turin Shroud, the supposed burial cloth of Jesus, police investigators have generated a photo-fit image from the negative facial image on the material. And from this they reversed the ageing process to create an image of a young Jesus, by reducing the size of the jaw, raising the chin and straightening the nose.

The technique effectively reverses the method that Italian police use to generate current likenesses of criminals, including senior mob bosses, for whom new photo fit images are needed when they have been on the run for decades.

Such techniques were used to produce an image of Mafia boss of bosses Bernardo Provenzano, from a photo taken in 1959. Provenzano was eventually captured in 2006.

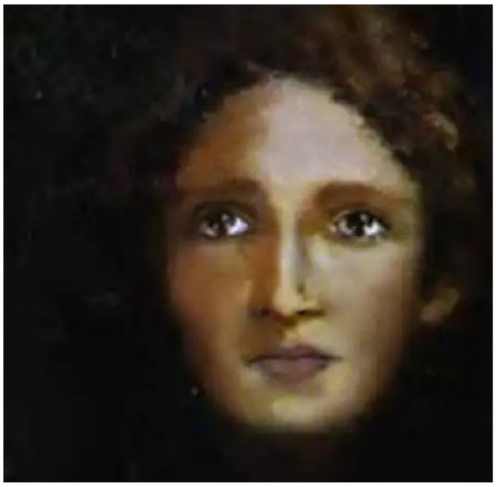
This image of Jesus as a young boy, and the methods used to create it, will be the subject of an upcoming programme on Italian television. But the exercise was done to mark the latest ostensione – a rare public display of the Shroud at Turin Cathedral.

The 14-foot-long sheet, made of herring-bone linen cloth, appears to show the front and back impression of a bearded man with long hair.

The body imprinted on the cloth appears to bear numerous injuries consistent with crucifixion, plus a gash in its side, consistent with the lance-wound suffered by Jesus.

It will be on public display for two months, with millions of visitors expected. Pope Francis is

due to visit and pray before the relic on June 21.



The ingenuity of the Italian police is unlikely to dispel the doubts of the many regarding the veracity of the image on which their detective work was based, however.

Carbon dating tests reported in 1998 in the prestigious research journal Nature, appeared to spell curtains for Shroud wavers. The researchers estimated that the image was made between 1260 and 1390 – and therefore nothing more than a medieval hoax.

Believers countered with claims that the researchers had mistakenly tested modern inserts on the cloth, and said that other tests suggested it contained pollen grains from plants that could only be found in the Holy Land.

But just last month research by Matteo Borrini, a professor of forensic anthropology, now at John Moores University in Liverpool, and Luigi Garlaschelli at the University of Pavia, which was presented at a meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Orlando, suggested the Shroud was a fake.

Based on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, their experiments with a dummy to see which way the blood would have run from Crucifixion wounds and how they would have stained a burial cloth -- showed remarkably different staining from that on the Shroud.

The blood stains on the cloth bear no relation to the placement or to the type of marks caused by a crucifixion – or even the blood stains caused by a wounded body lying in the tomb, the researchers said.

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Italy: Hundreds visit 'Madonna of the rock'

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere...

- 14 April 2015

Visitors to Casaletto Spartano were the first to point out the shape - here in the centre - to local people

An Italian village is attracting attention after a figure which some people think resembles the Virgin Mary appeared on a nearby rock face.

Hundreds of visitors have been drawn to Casaletto Spartano, population 1,400, to see the "Madonna of the rock" for themselves, La Citta di Salerno website reports. The site says it's a mix of faith and curiosity that's attracting people. The figure began to emerge last summer when a chunk of rock broke off the cliff during a minor landslide.

A small landslide left the shape in the rock

A local man says villagers didn't notice it at first, but now he can see the shape of hands and a cloak hanging down. "We don't know what it is... but the more you look at it the more it looks like a real Madonna," he tells the Italia 2 news channel. The rock also happens to lie just below a path used by local people during religious processions.

But one local website asked a geologist for input, and he says it's a simple matter of erosion occurring over several millennia. It has happened elsewhere to spectacular effect, including the famous Bear Rock on the island of Sardinia, Franco Ortolani tells the Giornale del Cilento. "That's the scientific explanation," he says, adding with a hint of irony that some might consider it a message from above. "It could be a reminder to love and adequately protect and value the immense natural heritage of the area," he says. "I like to think that's the 'meaning'."

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Itty, bitty (fake) nations to unfurl flags, royal doodads

By JOHN ROGERS April 10, 2015 12:13 PM

This April 8, 2015 photo shows His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Westarctica, aka Travis McHenry, posing in his uniform in West Hollywood, Calif. McHenry will be among the largest gathering of world leaders this side of the United Nations, convening Saturday, April 11, 2015 at MicroCon 2015, what organizers say is the first North American gathering of micronations, those tiny little countries that pretty much nobody but the people who rule them believe really exist. No one will be representing the United States, Great Britain or China, but you may catch a glimpse of the president of Molossia, decked out in a beribboned, full-dress uniform that would be the envy of any Third World dictator, with kings, queens, dukes and barons from places like Slabovia, Westarctica, Vikesland and Broslavia. (AP Photo/Gabriela Alvarez)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The largest gathering of world leaders this side of the United Nations is convening Saturday at a decidedly less glamorous edifice: the Anaheim Central Library down the street from Disneyland.

No one will be representing the United States, Great Britain or China, but you may catch a glimpse of the president of Molossia, decked out in a beribboned, full-dress uniform that would be the envy of any Third World dictator. There he'll be hobnobbing with kings, queens, dukes and barons from places like Slabovia, Westarctica, Vikesland and Broslavia.

The occasion is MicroCon 2015, what organizers say is the first North American gathering of micronations, those itty bitty countries that pretty much nobody but the people who rule them believe really exist.

"It's almost like a diplomatic version of a model railroad for nerds," says Steven F. Scharff, who has been studying the micronation movement for decades.

Most of these faux countries print their own stamps and mint their own money. Some even produce sashes, swords, pendants and other royal doodads that Scharff says rival anything coming out of England's royal House of Windsor. Much of it will be on display Saturday, along with the flags of some two dozen countries.

Pulling the gathering together is President Kevin Baugh of the Republic of Molossia, who rules over 1.3 acres of real estate he purchased east of Reno, Nevada, in 1998.

View gallery
This April 8, 2015 photo shows His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Westarctica, aka Travis McHenry, ...

Of the country's 27 citizens, only five — Baugh, his wife and kids — live in Molossia. Still, the place issues its own passports, has its own railroad, phone system, bank, post office and general store. If you call ahead, the president himself will take you on a tour.

"When you come to visit, you see as much as possible a functioning nation," says Baugh, who from his teens thought it would be really cool to create his own country. Don't get him wrong, though, he knows who really runs things.

"Can I lower the drinking age?" he asks rhetorically. "Well no, I can't. Come on, let's get real.

"We all want to think we have our own country, but you know the U.S. is a lot bigger," this benevolent dictator says with a hearty laugh.

Another world leader coming to MicroCon is His Royal Highness Travis McHenry. As grand duke of Westarctica, he rules over 620,000 frozen, triangle-shaped square miles of Antarctica that no real country ever bothered to claim. Although his nation is nearly the size of Alaska, none of its 300 citizens actually live there. But then, nobody else does either.

"When I discovered there was a piece of Antarctica unclaimed by any country, I was just really inspired by that," said McHenry, whose day job is recruiting coordinator for a Burbank-based media company. "I just sort of took my imagination and decided to see if I could turn it into a legitimate country."

He made it a nonprofit last year that advocates for protecting its native penguins and studying climate change's impact on Antarctica's ice sheet. He'll give a talk on "micronations that matter."

"It's just sort of encouraging other micronations to become nonprofits so they're actually doing something rather than just walking around wearing fancy capes," he says.

Micronations are scattered all over the word, although it's hard to get an exact count because they come and go. Some, like the Principality of Hutt River in Australia, began as the result of a dispute with a real country, in this case over wheat quotas that limited production on Prince Leonard Casley's farm.

As long as these places don't annoy the real government too much, they're generally left alone. But not always.

After Giorgio Rosa opened a tourist attraction on a platform off the coast of Italy in 1968, named it the Republic of Rose Island and declared himself president, Italy quickly invaded. Rosa's platform was eventually dynamited, literally blowing the Republic of Rose Island right off the map.

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Jade Helm, Texas Woman With Unluckiest Name In The World? inquisitr.com

Posted in: News Posted: May 7, 2015

Jade Helm, Texas Woman With Unluckiest Name In The World?

Jade Helm is more than a controversial realistic military training drill. One Texas woman is the only known person in the United States to share the same name as the RMT exercises slated to take place in July. Just a few months ago finding out that no other person shares your same name in America would have been nothing more than a trivial curiosity, but after news about Operation Jade Helm 15 went viral, Miss Jade Helm's life has become a bit complicated.

The *HowManyOfMe* website allows users to type in their first and last names to find out exactly how many other United States residents share the same name. According to the name-finding website, Jade is the 126th most popular name for baby girls.

operation jade helm 15

Jade Helm of Texas, the only person in America known to have the same name as the controversial realistic military training.

Jade Helm of Texas is a writer and a wine industry consultant. The young woman has absolutely nothing to do with the military or the conspiracy theory craze surrounding Operation Jade Helm 15.

Helm first learned of the Operation Jade Helm 15 when she received a Facebook friend request from a "confused" stranger. During an interview with the *Washington Post*, Miss Jade Helm had this to say about all of the attention her unique name has brought her in recent weeks.

"Maybe I have a low threshold. but I got annoyed pretty early. I scrolled the person's page and two posts down their feed was a link about the Jade Helm operation. This has happened countless times. On Facebook I can deny the request but some of my new Twitter followers will be disappointed. Or maybe they will learn something about wine. My father chose my name and I was to be called Jade regardless of gender. Nikki Jade if a girl and Mickey Jade if a boy."

Miss Helm also noted that her name was inspired from a "girlie magazine" her father was

browsing. Helm is her married name.

“My friends seem to delight in posting links to my page: ‘Did you know… Have you seen… What have you gotten yourself into now?’ I usually respond that ‘Wine was just my cover. Please don’t blow it.’”

When on Facebook friend asked Jade Helm what wine goes best with massive military drills, she suggested Kung Fu Girl Rising or Boom Boom Syrah.

“Maybe they chose Jade Helm because it is a kick-a** name. They could have asked, though,” Miss Helm said when asked why she thought the military chose Jade Helm as the name for the realistic military training exercises. Helm does not have an opinion on any of the conspiracy theories surrounding Operation Jade Helm 15.

[Images via: Jade Helm Facebook and *Shutterstock.com*]

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Japan: Zoo sorry for naming monkey after new princess - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 6 May 2015

A Japanese zoo has apologised after naming a baby monkey Charlotte in honour of the newborn British princess, it's reported.

The Takasakiyama Zoo, in southern Japan, was inundated with complaints after announcing the female macaque monkey's name on Wednesday, the Kyodo news agency reports. The zoo says the name was chosen after a public vote, a tradition for their first newborn macaque monkey each year. Charlotte received the most votes, although it wasn't exactly a runaway winner, with 59 out of 853 people choosing it.

But other members of the public felt that it was disrespectful to the British royal family to name a monkey after a princess. The zoo faced a "barrage" of complaints from people wanting them to re-name the macaque, with some noting that the Japanese people might not be best pleased if a British monkey were named after one of their own royal family, Kyodo reports. The zoo has apologised in a statement on its website. It says it takes people's concerns seriously and is discussing a potential name change for the newborn animal.

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Julius Caesar May Have Suffered Mini Strokes, Not Epilepsy : DNews

discovery.com

Roman general Julius Caesar may have suffered a series of mini-strokes and not epilepsy, according to a new review of his symptoms.

Ancient sources report that Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) had episodes of vertigo, dizziness and limb weakness.

The dictator of the Roman empire famously suffered falls during his campaigns in Spain and Africa. The first attack occurred in 46 BC in Thapsus, modern Tunisia, and the second in Cordoba, Spain, when he was over 50 years of age.

The Roman historian Suetonius (69-after 122 AD) claimed that “towards the end he was subject to sudden fainting fits and nightmares as well,” and called his disease “morbus comitialis.”

Caesar’s condition was also reported by the Greek historian Plutarch (about 46-120 AD). In his biography of the Roman general, he wrote that Caesar collapsed in Thapsus and was carried to safety to a “neighboring tower where he stayed quietly during the battle.”

Suetonius and Plutarch’s accounts contributed to produce a diagnosis of epilepsy which has prevailed for centuries.

“The theory that Caesar was epileptic appears not to have very solid philological foundations. If carefully re-examined, the facts appear to suggest a simpler and more logical diagnosis of stroke,” Francesco M. Galassi, an MD at Imperial College London, told Discovery News.

Detailing their review in the journal Neurological Sciences, Galassi and colleague Hutan Ashrafian, a surgeon at the college, argue that most studies have focused on the origin of Caesar’s epilepsy, but virtually none has questioned the assumption that he was epileptic.

“Suetonius uses the words ‘morbus comitialis’, a very general definition, not necessarily meaning epilepsy,” Galassi said.

According to Galassi and Ashrafian, the symptoms reported in Caesar’s life — falls, headache, vertigo, giddiness — are consistent with him having multiple mini-strokes.

“Furthermore, Caesar also suffered from other symptoms including depression and personality changes (exampled by emotional lability when listening to a moving oration by Cicero) which may also be consistent with cerebrovascular disease,” Galassi and Ashrafian wrote.

Another attack might have occurred when Caesar failed to stand up as senators honored him. On that occasion, he reported symptoms of headaches, vertigo and later mentioned giddiness and insensibility.

Considered one of the greatest military leaders of all time, Caesar first conquered territory in Britain, Gaul (now France), and Spain. He crossed Italy's Rubicon River, giving rise to the five-year-long civil war that left him dictator of Rome.

By 45 BC, Caesar controlled a vast territory that later was the Roman Empire. But his rule was cut short when conspirators, who feared he had too much power, stabbed him to death in the Senate building.

Until now, cardiovascular explanations for Caesar condition have been largely ruled out because until his death he was apparently otherwise well in private and state affairs.

"Even if Caesar participated in an active lifestyle and may have benefited from the background of a Mediterranean diet, there is the added possibility of genetic predisposition towards cardiovascular disease," the researchers wrote.

Indeed, Pliny the Elder reports that both Caesar's father and another forefather died suddenly without any real explanation while putting on their shoes.

"This has been explained in terms of SUDEP (sudden unexpected death in epilepsy) but it is much more logical and less complicated to think of these deaths in terms of cerebrovascular disease or lethal myocardial infarction," Galassi said.

There are no records of Caesar suffering from seizures in his youth and it is more rare to develop such attacks later in life.

The researchers concede that while epilepsy is a possibility, it would have to derive from adult onset diseases, such as head trauma, neurocystercosis from his Egyptian campaign,atherosclerosis, syphilis, malaria, tubercolosis and glioma.

At Caesar's time, epilepsy was regarded as a divine disease. If not Caesar himself, his adoptive son and successor Octavian might have favored the story of the epilepsy in a propaganda drive.

"Had he suffered from epileptic attacks, in such a prominent individual like Ceasar no doubt we'd have many more detailed and informative descriptions than we happen to have," Galassi concluded.

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Jury Convicts Oregon Farmer of Killing Men, Feeding to Pigs

MEDFORD, Ore. — Apr 21, 2015, 11:36 PM ET go.com

Jurors spent only about an hour deliberating Tuesday before convicting an Oregon woman of killing two handymen and feeding their corpses to her pigs.

The Jackson County jury found Susan Monica guilty of murdering two men about a year apart, then abusing their corpses by feeding them to the animals at her farm, The Medford Mail Tribune reported (http://is.gd/Ltq4ap).

Circuit Judge Tim Barnack immediately sentenced Monica to a minimum 50 years in prison.

"You shot two people and fed them to your pigs," the judge told Monica, 66. "I don't know how else I can put it. You valued pigs more than you value people.

"It may sound harsh, but you are a cold-blooded killer," Barnack said.

Prosecutors said Stephen Delicino, 59, was killed in 2012 and Robert Haney, 56, died in 2013.

Monica asked for sentencing as soon as the jury was dismissed, saying "it doesn't seem to matter."

The case will be appealed, the defense said.

Monica's changing stories about how she shot Delicino and Haney never matched the forensic evidence, Allan Smith, senior assistant deputy district attorney, told jurors in closing arguments.

She variously claimed that Delicino shot himself repeatedly in the head and also that she shot him in self-defense and he was eaten by her pigs before she buried his remains on her 20-acre farm in southern Oregon, Smith reminded jurors.

Monica told investigators Haney disappeared in the summer of 2013. She said she came on him a month later as pigs were disemboweling him, and she shot him to ease his suffering. She later questioned whether he was alive when she shot him.

Defense attorney Garren Pedemonte argued there was no concrete evidence to rebut Monica's claims that she shot Delicino in self-defense or to show that Haney was actually alive when Monica shot him. Some of his remains were found in plastic bags in her barn.

A State Police forensic anthropologist, Veronica Vance, testified that Haney's legs had been chopped off with an ax, and the thigh bones showed signs of being gnawed by an animal.

Vance said she couldn't determine whether the ax blows came before or after Haney died. She said Delicino suffered three to four gunshot wounds to the head, but there was no evidence one way or another about the self-defense claim.

"Just because Susan Monica is different and strange and weird doesn't make her a murderer," another defense lawyer, Christine Herbert, told the jury.

At one point during the six-day trial, Monica herself cross-examined sheriff's Detective Eric Henderson, who was the lead investigator in the case, despite having her own defense team.

On Monday, a cellmate of Monica's testified the defendant signed a birthday card in jail with this phrase: "from the sweetest murderer in Jackson County."

"I got chills from the birthday card," 23-year-old inmate Jordan "Janae" Farris testified. Farris was serving time for violating probation from a burglary conviction and met Monica in the Jackson County Jail.

Monica said she signed the card in accordance with the charges she was facing, KDRV-TV reported.

As the judge addressed the jury before deliberations Tuesday, the newspaper reported that Monica stood up, raised her hand and began asking for the chance to give jurors one more demonstration on how she claimed she shot Delicino.

"I'd like to demonstrate how I shot him for 10 seconds," Monica said.

Barnack initially ignored her. Then Monica put her hands in the air, as she did in her earlier testimony from the stand, and said, "I held the gun like this."

At that, the judge ordered her back to jail and sheriff's deputies took her away.

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KALAI-PAHOA, THE POISON-GOD

THE Bishop Museum of Honolulu has one of the best as well as one of the most scientifically arranged collections of Hawaiian curios in the world. In it are images of many of the gods of long ago. One of these is a helmeted head made of wicker-work, over which has been woven a thick covering of beautiful red feathers bordered with yellow feathers. This was the mighty war-god, Kukailimoku, of the great Kamehameha. Another is a squat rough image, crudely carved out of wood. This was Kamehameha's poison-god.

The ancient Hawaiians were acquainted with poisons of various kinds. They understood the medicinal qualities of plants and found some of these strong enough to cause sickness and even death. One of the Hawaiian writers said: "The opihi-awa is a poison shell-fish. These are bitter and deadly and can be used in putting enemies to death. Kalai-pahoa is also a tree in which there is the power to kill."

Kamehameha's poison-god was called Kalai-pahoa, because it was cut from that tree which

{p. 109}

grew in the upland forest on the island of Molokai.

A native writer says there was an antidote for the poison from Kalai-pahoa, and he thus describes it: "The war-god and the poison-god were not left standing in the temples like the images of other gods, but after being worshipped were wrapped in kapa and laid away.

"When the priest wanted Kalai-pahoa he was taken down and anointed with coconut-oil and wrapped in a fresh kapa cloth. Then he was set up above the altar and a feast prepared before him, awa to drink, and pig, fish, and poi to eat.

"Then the priest who had special care of this god would scrape off a little from the wood, and put it in an awa cup, and hold the cup before the god, chanting a prayer for the life of the king, the government, and the people. One of the priests would then take the awa cup, drink the contents, and quickly take food.

"Those who were watching would presently see a red flush creep over his cheeks, growing stronger and stronger, while the eyes would become glassy and the breath short like that of a dying man. Then the priest would touch his lips to the stick, Mai-ola, and have his life restored. Mai-ola was a god who had another tree. When Kalai-pahoa entered his tree on Molokai, Mai-ola

{p. 110}

entered another tree and became the enemy of the poison-god."

The priests of the poison-god were very powerful in the curious rite called pule-ana-ana, or

praying to death. The Hawaiians said: "Perhaps the priests of Kalai-pahoa put poison in bananas or in taro, it was believed that they scraped the body of the image and put the pieces in the food of the one they wished to pray to death. There was one chief who was very skilful in waving kahilis, or feather fans, over any one and shaking the powder of death into the food from the moving feathers. Another would have scrapings in his cloak and would drop them into whatever food his enemy was eating." The spirit of death was supposed to reside in the wood of the poison-god.

A very interesting legend was told by the old people to their children to explain the coming of medicinal and poisonous properties into the various kinds of trees and plants. These stories all go back to the time when Milu died and became the king of ghosts. They say that after the death of Milu the gods left Waipio Valley or, the island of Hawaii and crossed the channel to the island Maui.

These gods had all kinds of power for evil, such as stopping the breath, chilling or burning the body, making headaches or pains in the stomach,

{p. 111}

or causing palsy or lameness or other injuries, even inflicting death.

Pua and Kapo, who from ancient times have been worshipped as goddesses having medicinal power, joined the party when they came to Maui. Then all the gods went up Mauna Loa, a place where there was a large and magnificent forest with fine trees, graceful vines and ferns, and beautiful flowers. They all loved this place, therefore they became gods of the forest.

Near this forest lived Kane-ia-kama, a high chief, who was a very great gambler. He had gambled away all his possessions. While he was sleeping, the night of his final losses, he heard some one call, "O Kane-ia-kama, begin your play again." He shouted out into the darkness: "I have bet everything. I have nothing left."

Then the voice again said, "Bet your bones, bet your bones, and see what will happen."

When he went to the gambling-place the next day the people all laughed at him, for they knew his goods were all gone. He sat down among them, however, and said: "I truly have nothing left. My treasures are all gone, but I have my bones. If you wish, I will bet my body, then I will play with you."

The other chiefs scornfully placed some property on one side and said, "That will be of the same value as your bones."

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They gambled and he won. The chiefs were angry at their loss and bet again and again. He always won until he had more wealth than any one on the island.

After the gambling days were over he heard again the same voice saying: "O Kane-ia-kama,

you have done all that I told you and have become very rich in property and servants. Will you obey once more? "

The chief gratefully thanked the god for the aid that he had received, and said he would obey. The voice then said: "Perhaps we can help you to one thing. You are now wealthy, but there is a last gift for you. You must listen carefully and note all I show you."

Then this god of the night pointed out the trees into which the gods had entered when they decided to remain for a time in the forest, and explained to him all their different characteristics. He showed him where gods and goddesses dwelt and gave their names. Then he ordered Kane-ia-kama to take offerings of pigs, fish, coconuts, bananas, chickens, kapas, and all other things used for sacrifice, and place them at the roots of these trees into which the gods had entered, the proper offerings for each.

The next morning he went into the forest and saw that be had received a very careful description of each tree. He observed attentively the tree

{p. 113}}

shown as the home of the spirit who had become his strange helper.

Before night fell he placed offerings as commanded. As a worshipper he took each one of these trees for his god, so he had many gods of plants and trees.

For some reason not mentioned in the legends he sent woodcutters to cut down these trees, or at least to cut gods out of them with their stone axes.

They began to cut. The koko (blood) of the trees, as the natives termed the flowing sap, and the chips flying out struck some of the woodcutters and they fell dead.

Kane-ia-kama made cloaks of the long leaves of the ieie vine and tied them around his men, so that their bodies could not be touched, then the work was easily accomplished.

The chief kept these images of gods cut from the medicinal trees and could use them as he desired. The most powerful of all these gods was that one whose voice he had heard in the night. To this god he gave the name Kalai-pahoa (The-one-cut-by-the-pahoa-or-stone-axe).

One account relates that the pahoa (stone) from which the axe was made came from Kalakoi, a celebrated place for finding a very hard lava of fine grain, the very best for making stone implements.

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The god who had spoken to the chief in his dream was sometimes called Kane-kulana-ula (noted red Kane).

The gods were caught by the sacrifices of the chief while they were in their tree bodies before they could change back into their spirit bodies, therefore their power was supposed to remain

in the trees.

It was said that when Kane-kulana-ula changed into his tree form he leaped into it with a tremendous flash of lightning, thus the great mana, or miraculous power, went into that tree.

The strange death which came from the god Kalai-pahoa made that god and his priest greatly feared. One of the pieces of this tree fell into a spring at Kaakee near the maika, or disc-rolling field, on Molokai. All the people who drank at that spring died. They filled it up and the chiefs ruled that the people should not keep branches or pieces of the tree for the injury of others. If such pieces were found in the possession of any one he should die. Only the carved goods were to be preserved.

Kahekili, king of Maui at the time of the accession of Kamehameha to the sovereignty of the island Hawaii, had these images in his possession as a part of his household gods.

Kamehameha sent a prophet to ask him for one of these gods. Kahekili refused to send

{p. 115}

one, but told him to wait and he should have the poison-god and the government over all the islands.

One account records that a small part from the poison one was then given.

So, after the death of Kahekili, Kamehameha did conquer all the islands with their hosts of gods, and Kalai-pahoa, the poison-god, came into his possession.

The overthrow of idolatry and the destruction of the system of tabus came in 1819, when most of the wooden gods were burned or thrown into ponds and rivers, but a few were concealed by their caretakers. Among these were the two gods now to be seen in the Bishop Museum[1] in Honolulu.

[1. See Appendix.]

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Next: XV. Ke-ao-mele-mele, The Maid of the Golden Cloud

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IV. Kalo-eke-eke, The Timid Taro

sacred-texts.com

KALO-EKE-EKE, THE TIMID TARO

A MYTH is a purely imaginative story. A legend is a story with some foundation in fact. A fable tacks on a moral. A tradition is a myth or legend or fact handed down from generation to generation.

The old Hawaiians were frequently mythmakers. They imagined many a fairy-story for the different localities of the islands, and these are very interesting. The myth of the two taro plants belongs to South Kona, Hawaii, and affords an excellent illustration of Hawaiian imagination. The story is told in different ways, and came to the writer in the present form:

A chief lived on the mountain-side above Hookena. There his people cultivated taro, made kapa cloth, and prepared the trunks of koa-trees for canoes. He had a very fine taro patch. The plants prided themselves upon their rapid and perfect growth.

In one part of the taro pond, side by side, grew two taro plants--finer, stronger, and more beautiful than the others. The leaf stalks bent over in more perfect curves: the leaves developed in graceful proportions. Mutual admiration

{p. 27}

filled the hearts of the two taro[1] plants and resulted in pledges of undying affection.

One day the chief was talking to his servants about the food to be made ready for a feast. He ordered the two especially fine taro plants to be pulled up. One of the servants came to the home of the two lovers and told them that they were to be taken by the chief.

Because of their great affection for each other they determined to cling to life as long as possible, and therefore moved to another part of the taro patch, leaving their neighbors to be pulled up instead of themselves.

But the chief soon saw them in their new home and again ordered their destruction. Again they fled. This happened from time to time until the angry chief determined that they should be taken, no matter what part of the pond they might be in.

The two taro plants thought best to flee, therefore took to themselves wings and made a short flight to a neighboring taro patch. Here again their enemy found them. A second flight was made to another part of South Kona, and then to still another, until all Kona was interested in the perpetual pursuit and the perpetual escape. At last there was no part of Kona in which they could be concealed. A friend of the angry chief would reveal their hiding-place, while

[1. Also kalo, Calocasia antiquorum.]

{p. 28}

one of their own friends would give warning of the coming of their pursuer. At last they leaped into the air and flew on and on until they were utterly weary and fell into a taro patch near Waiohinu. But their chief had ordered the imu (cooking-place) to be made ready for them, and had hastened along the way on foot, trying to capture them if at any time they should try to alight. However, their wings moved more swiftly than his feet, so they had a little rest before he came near to their new home. Then again they lifted themselves into the sky. Favoring winds carried them along and they flew a great distance away from South Kona into the neighboring district of Kau. Here they found a new home under a kindly chief. Here they settled down and lived many years under the name of Kalo-eke-eke, or "The Timid Taro." A large family grew up about them and a happy old age blessed their declining days.

It is possible that this beautiful little story may have grown out of the ancient Hawaiian unwritten law which sometimes permitted the subjects of a chief to move away from their home and transfer their allegiance to some neighboring ruler.

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Kanye West Denies Illuminati Ties

snopes.com

- Posted by Kim LaCapria /
- April 20, 2015

Kanye West is one of many pop stars frequently cited in rumors about the shadowy Illuminati group, in what is best described as a meta-conspiracy theory. Although many similar rumors are more linear and contained in comparison (a classic example being the supposedly faked moon landings), with a clear progression from conspiracy to result, Illuminati rumors are markedly more free-form. In essence, the Illuminati are whoever and whatever one wants them to be.

In common variations of the conspiracy rumors, the Illuminati are a powerful global cabal of elite puppet masters, and celebrities such as Kanye West (and his contemporaries Jay-Z and Beyoncé) are frequently accused of using their own influence to subtly send secret signals to or from their fellow Illuminati. Some theorists believe the purported coded messages are being used to exert mind control, finding evidence for their suppositions in everything from Super Bowl halftime performances to politicians' hand gestures.

West's inclusion among purportedly Illuminati-linked celebrities was examined in 2011 by *Slate* in an article about "pop-music trutherism":

> The best conspiracy theories go all the way to the top, and this one goes all the way to the top of the charts. Jay-Z? An "Illuminati puppet." Lady Gaga? An "Illuminati whore." Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Beyoncé, Rihanna—Illuminati agents all. (Michael Jackson and 2Pac, it turns out, were victims of Illuminati-ordered assassination.) The Illuminati investigation unfolds sloppily but vigorously across countless sites, from YouTube to Twitter to fan discussion boards to dedicated shops like VigilantCitizen.com. The trained eye can spot Illuminati sartorial choices, like goat-themed jewelry and T-shirts, worn in ostensible tribute to Baphomet, a horned pagan deity who intrigued Aleister Crowley. There is Illuminati semaphore, such as framing one's eye with the palms tipped together in a pyramid shape or otherwise isolating an eye to evoke the "all-seeing eye" on the back of a dollar bill, an image with Masonic origins. There are Illuminati lyrics, like Eminem's mention of a "New World Order" on "Lose Yourself" or the references he and Jay-Z have made, separately, to a mysterious, powerful figure they call the "Rain Man" (the theorists are apparently unfamiliar with Dustin Hoffman's IMDb page).

As the passage quoted above explains, Illuminati conspiracy theories don't appear to ever coalesce to a frequency audible outside the truther bubble. Those who spot members of plotting cabals on TV cable every night based on loosely-connected evidence (compiled mainly of vague symbols) in unrelated mundane activities simply don't form a cohesive claim on par with actual conspiracies.

Various tweets issued on 19 April 2015 alluded to the rumors of a connection between Kanye

West, his TIDAL music streaming business, and the Illuminati:

The rumors haven't abated in the years since the *Slate* piece was published, as West observed in an essay he penned for *Paper* (and linked to in a 20 April 2015 tweet):

> I heard a comment — a joke — about the Tidal press conference being an Illuminati moment. If there was actually an Illuminati, it would be more like the energy companies. Not celebrities that gave their life to music and who are pinpointed as decoys for people who really run the world. I'm tired of people pinpointing musicians as the Illuminati. That's ridiculous. We don't run anything; we're *celebrities*. We're the face of brands. We have to compromise what we say in lyrics so we don't lose money on a contract. Madonna is in her 50s and gave everything she had to go up on an award show and get choked by her cape. She's judged for who she adopts. Fuck all of this sensationalism. We gave you our lives. We gave you our hearts. We gave you our opinions!

West's piece produced some tongue-in-cheek responses from amused non-believers:

Kanye West's full essay (including his Illuminati denial) can be read on *Paper*'s website.

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VII. Kauhuhu, the Shark-God of Molokai

KAUHUHU, THE SHARK-GOD OF MOLOKAI

THE story of the shark-god Kauhuhu has been told under the legend of "Aikanaka the (Man-eater)," which was the ancient name of the little harbor Pukoo, which lies at the entrance to one of the beautiful valleys of the island of Molokai. The better way is to take the legend as revealing the great man-eater in one of his most kindly aspects. The shark-god appears as the friend of a priest who is seeking revenge for the destruction of his children. Kamalo was the name of the priest. His heiau, or temple, was at Kaluaaha, a village which faced the channel between the islands of Molokai and Maui. Across the channel the rugged red-brown slopes of the mountain Eeke were lost in the masses of clouds which continually hung around its sharp peaks. The two boys of the priest delighted in the glorious revelations of sunrise and sunset tossed in shattered fragments of cloud color, and rejoiced in the reflected tints which danced to them over the swift channel-currents. It is no wonder that the courage of sky and sea entered into the hearts

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of the boys, and that many deeds of daring were done by them. They were taught many of the secrets of the temple by their father, but were warned that certain things were sacred to the gods and must not be touched. The high chief, or alii, of that part of the island had a temple a short distance from Kaluaaha, in the valley of the harbor which was called Aikanaka. The name of this chief was Kupa. The chiefs always had a house built within the temple walls as their own residence, to which they could retire at certain seasons of the year. Kupa had two remarkable drums which he kept in his house at the heiau. His skill in beating his drums was so great that they could reveal his thoughts to the waiting priests.

One day Kupa sailed far away over the sea to his favorite fishing-grounds. Meanwhile the boys were tempted to go to Kupa's heiau and try the wonderful drums. The valley of the little harbor Aikanaka bore the musical name Mapulehu. Along the beach and over the ridge hastened the two sons of Kamalo. Quickly they entered the heiau, found the high chief's house, took out his drums and began to beat upon them. Some of the people heard the familiar tones of the drums. They dared not enter the sacred doors of the heiau, but watched until the boys became weary of their sport and returned home. {p. 51} When Kupa returned they told him how the boys had beaten upon his sacred drums. Kupa was very angry, and ordered his mu, or temple sacrifice seekers, to kill the boys and bring their bodies to the heiau to be placed on the altar. When the priest Kamalo heard of the death of his sons, in bitterness of heart he sought revenge. His own power was not great enough to cope with his high chief; therefore he sought the aid of the seers and prophets of highest repute throughout Molokai. But they feared Kupa the chief, and could not aid him, and therefore sent him on to another kaula, or prophet, or sent him back to consult some one the other side of his home. All this time he carried with him fitting presents and sacrifices, by which he hoped to gain the assistance of the gods through their priests. At last he came to the steep precipice which overlooks Kalaupapa and Kalawao, the present home of the lepers. At the foot of this

precipice was a heiau, in which the great shark-god was worshipped. Down the sides of the precipice he climbed and at last found the priest of the shark-god. The priest refused to give assistance, but directed him to go to a great cave in the bold cliffs south of Kalawao. The name of the cave was Anao-puhi, the cave of the eel. Here dwelt the great shark-god Kauhuhu and his guardians or watchers, Waka and Mo-o, the great dragons or reptiles

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of Polynesian legends. These dragons were mighty warriors in the defence of the shark-god, and were his kahus, or caretakers, while he slept, or when his cave needed watching during his absence.

Kamalo, tired and discouraged, plodded along through the rough lava fragments piled around the entrance to the cave. He bore across his shoulders a black pig, which he had carried many miles as an offering to whatever power he could find to aid him. As he came near to the cave the watchmen saw him and said:--

"E, here comes a man, food for the great [shark] Mano. Fish for Kauhuhu." But Kamalo came nearer and for some reason aroused sympathy in the dragons. "E hele! E hele!" they cried to him. "Away, away! It is death to you. Here's the tabu place." "Death it may be--life it may be. Give me revenge for my sons--and I have no care for myself." Then the watchmen asked about his trouble and he told them how the chief Kupa had slain his sons as a punishment for beating the drums. Then he narrated the story of his wanderings all over Molokai, seeking for some power strong enough to overcome Kupa. At last he had come to the shark-god-as the final possibility of aid. If Kauhuhu failed him, he was ready to die; indeed he had no wish to live. The mo-o assured him of

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their kindly feelings, and told him that it was a very good thing that Kauhuhu was away fishing, for if he had been home there would have been no way for him to go before the god without suffering immediate death. There would have been not even an instant for explanations. Yet they ran a very great risk in aiding him, for they must conceal him until the way was opened by the favors of the great gods. If he should be discovered and eaten before gaining the aid of the shark-god, they, too, must die with him. They decided that they would hide him in the rubbish pile of taro peelings which had been thrown on one side when they had pounded taro. Here he must lie in perfect silence until the way was made plain for him to act. They told him to watch for the coming of eight great surf waves rolling in from the sea, and then wait in his place of concealment for some opportunity to speak to the god because he would come in the last great wave. Soon the surf began to roll in and break against the cliffs.

Higher and higher rose the waves until the eighth reared far above the waters. and met the winds from the shore which whipped the curling crest into a shower of spray. It raced along the water and beat far up into. the cave, breaking into foam, out of which the shark-god emerged. At once he took his human form and

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walked around the cave. As he passed the rubbish heap he cried out: "A man is here. I smell him." The dragons earnestly denied that any one was there, but the shark-god said, "There is surely a man in this cave. If I find him, dead men you are. If I find him not, you shall live." Then Kauhuhu looked along the walls of the cave and into all the hiding-places, but could not find him. He called with a loud voice, but only the echoes answered, like the voices of ghosts. After a thorough search he was turning away to attend to other matters when Kamalo's pig squealed. Then the giant shark-god leaped to the pile of taro leavings and thrust them apart. There lay Kamalo and the black pig which had been brought for sacrifice.

"Oh, the anger of the god!
Oh, the blazing eyes!"

Kauhuhu instantly caught Kamalo and lifted him from the rubbish up toward his great mouth. Now the head and shoulders are in Kauhuhu's mouth. So quickly has this been done that Kamalo has had no time to think. Kamalo speaks quickly as the teeth are coming down upon him. "E Kauhuhu, listen to me. Hear my prayer. Then perhaps eat me." The shark-god is astonished and does not bite. He takes Kamalo from his mouth and says: "Well for you that you spoke quickly. Perhaps you have a

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good thought. Speak." Then Kamalo told about his sons and their death at the hands of the executioners of the great chief, and that no one dared avenge him, but that all the prophets of the different gods had sent him from one place to another but could give him no aid. Sure now was he that Kauhuhu alone could give him aid. Pity came to the shark-god as it had come to his dragon watchers when they saw the sad condition of Kamalo. All this time Kamalo had held the hog which he had carried with him for sacrifice. This he now offered to the shark-god. Kauhuhu, pleased and compassionate, accepted the offering, and said: "E Kamalo. If you had come for any other purpose I would eat you, but your cause is sacred. I will stand as your kahu, your guardian, and sorely punish the high chief Kupa."

Then he told Kamalo to go to the heiau of the priest who told him to see the shark-god, take this priest on his shoulders, carry him over the steep precipices to his own heiau at Kaluaaha, and there live with him as a fellow-priest. They were to build a tabu fence around the heiau and put up the sacred tabu staffs of white tapa cloth. They must collect black pigs by the four hundred, red fish by the four hundred, and white chickens by the four hundred. Then they were to wait patiently for the coming of Kauhuhu. It was to be a strange coming. On the island Lanai, far

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to the west of the Maui channel, they should see a small cloud, white as snow, increasing until it covered the little island. Then that cloud would cross the channel against the wind and climb the mountains of Molokai until it rested on the highest peaks over the valley where Kupa had his temple. "At that time," said Kauhuhu, "a great rainbow will span the valley. I

shall be in the care of that rainbow, and you may clearly understand that I am there and will speedily punish the man who has injured you. Remember that because you came to me for this sacred cause, therefore I have spared you, the only man who has ever stood in the presence of the shark-god and escaped alive." Swiftly did Kamalo go up and down precipices and along the rough hard ways to the heiau of the priest of the shark-god. Gladly did he carry him up from Kalaupapa to the mountain-ridge above. Quickly did he carry him to his home and there provide for him while he gathered together the black pigs, the red fish, and the white chickens within the sacred enclosure he had built. Here he brought his family, those who had the nearest and strongest claims upon him. When his work was done, his eyes burned with watching the clouds of the little western island Lanai. Ah, the days passed by so slowly! The weeks and the months came, so the legends say, and still Kamalo waited in patience. At last one day

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a white cloud appeared. It was unlike all the other white clouds he had anxiously watched during the dreary months. Over the channel it came. it spread over the hillsides and climbed the mountains and rested at the head of the valley belonging to Kupa. Then the watchers saw the glorious rainbow and knew that Kauhuhu had come according to his word.

The storm arose at the head of the valley. The winds struggled into a furious gale. The clouds gathered in heavy black masses, dark as midnight, and were pierced through with terrific flashes of lightning. The rain fell in floods, sweeping the hillside down into the valley, and rolling all that was below onward in a resistless mass toward the ocean. Down came the torrent upon the heiau belonging to Kupa, tearing its walls into fragments and washing Kupa and his people into the harbor at the mouth of the valley. Here the shark-god had gathered his people. Sharks filled the bay and feasted upon Kupa and his followers until the waters ran red and all were destroyed. Hence came the legendary name for that little harbor--Aikanaka, the place for man-eaters.

It is said in the legends that "when great clouds gather on the mountains and a rainbow spans the valley, look out for furious storms of wind and rain which come suddenly, sweeping down the

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valley." It also said in the legends that this strange storm which came in such awful power upon Kupa spread out over the adjoining lowlands, carrying great destruction everywhere, but it paused at the tabu staff of Kamalo, and rushed on either side of the sacred fence, not daring to touch any one who dwelt therein. Therefore Kamalo and his people were spared. The legend has been called "Aikanaka" because of the feast of the sharks on the human flesh swept down into that harbor by the storm, but it seems more fitting to name the story after the shark-god Kauhuhu, who sent mighty storms and wrought great destruction.

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Next: VIII. The Shark-man Of Waipio Valley

XV. Ke-ao-mele-mele, The Maid of the Golden Cloud

KE-AO-MELE-MELE, THE MAID OF THE GOLDEN CLOUD

THE Hawaiians never found gold in their islands. The mountains being of recent volcanic origin do not show traces of the precious metals; but hovering over the mountain-tops clustered the glorious golden clouds built up by damp winds from the seas. The Maiden of the Golden Cloud belonged to the cloud mountains and was named after their golden glow.

Her name in the Hawaiian tongue was Ke-ao-mele-mele (The Golden Cloud). She was said to be one of the first persons brought by the gods to find a home in the Paradise of the Pacific.

In the ancient times, the ancestors of the Hawaiians came from far-off ocean lands, for which they had different names, such as The Shining Heaven, The Floating Land of Kane, The Far-off White Land of Kahiki, and Kuai-he-lani. It was from Kuai-he-lani that the Maiden of the Golden Cloud was called to live in Hawaii.

In this legendary land lived Mo-o-inanea (self-reliant dragon). She cared for the first

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children of the gods, one of whom was named Hina, later known in Polynesian mythology as Moon Goddess.

Mo-o-inanea took her to Ku, one of the gods. They lived together many years and a family of children came to them.

Two of the great gods of Polynesia, Kane and Kanaloa, had found a beautiful place above Honolulu on Oahu, one of the Hawaiian Islands. Here they determined to build a home for the first-born child of Hina.

Thousands of eepa (gnome) people lived around this place, which was called Waolani. The gods had them build a temple which was also called Waolani (divine forest).

When the time came for the birth of the child, clouds and fogs crept over the land, thunder rolled and lightning flashed, red torrents poured down the hillsides, strong winds hurled the rain through bending trees, earthquakes shook the land, huge waves rolled inland from the sea. Then a beautiful boy was born. All these signs taken together signified the birth of a chief of the highest degree--even of the family of the gods.

Kane and Kanaloa sent their sister Anuenue (rainbow) to get the child of Ku and Hina that they might care for it. All three should be the caretakers.

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Anuenue went first to the place where Mo-o-inanea dwelt, to ask her if it would be right. Mo-o-

One morning Paliula in her home above Hilo awoke from a dream in which she saw Poliahu and the chief living together, so she told Waka, asking if the dream were true. Waka, by her magic power, looked over the island and saw the three young men living with the three maidens of the snow mantle. She called with a penetrating voice for the chief to return to his own home. She went in the form of a great bird and brought him back.

But Poliahu followed, met the chief secretly and took him up to Mauna Kea again, covering the mountain with snow so that Waka could not go to find them.

Waka and the bird friends of Paliula could not reach the mountain-top because of the cold. Waka went to Waolani and told Anuenue about Paliula's trouble.

Anuenue was afraid that Kane and Kanaloa might hear that the chief had forsaken his sister,

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and was much troubled, so she asked Waka to go with her to see Mo-o-inanea at Ke-alohi-lani, but the gods Kane and Kanaloa could not be deceived. They understood that there was trouble, and came to meet them.

Kane told Waka to return and tell the girl to be patient; the chief should be punished for deserting her.

Waka returned and found that Paliula had gone away wandering in the forest, picking-lehua flowers on the way up toward the Lua Pele, the volcano pit of Pele, the goddess of fire. There she had found a beautiful girl and took her as an aikane (friend) to journey around Hawaii. They travelled by way of the districts of Puna, Kau, and Kona to Waipio, where she saw a fine-looking man standing above a precipice over which leaped the wonderful mist-falls of Hiilawe. This young chief married the beautiful girl friend of Paliula.

Poliahu by her kupua power recognized Paliula, and told the chief that she saw her with a new husband.

Paliula went on to her old home and rested many days. Waka then took her from island to island until they were near Oahu. When they came to the beach, Paliula leaped ashore and went up to Manoa Valley. There she rushed Into the forest and climbed the ridges and precipices. {p. 136} She wandered through the rough places, her clothes torn and ragged.

Kane and Kanaloa saw her sitting on the mountain-side. Kane sent servants to find her and bring her to live with them at Waolani. When she came to the home of the gods in Nuuanu Valley she thought longingly of her husband and sang this mele:

"Lo, at Waolani is my lei of the blood-red rain,
The lei of the misty rain gathered and put together,
Put together in my thought with tears.
Spoiled is the body by love,
Dear in the eyes of the lover.
My brother, the first-born,

Return, oh, return, my brother."

Paliula, chanting this, turned away from Waolani to Waianae and dwelt for a time with the chiefess Kalena.

While Paliula was living with the people of the cold winds of Waianae she wore leis of mokahana berries and fragrant grass, and was greatly loved by the family. She went up the mountain to a great gulch. She lay down to sleep, but heard a sweet voice saying, "You cannot sleep on the edge of that gulch." She was frequently awakened by that voice. She went on up the mountain-ridges above Waianae. At night when she rested she heard the voices again and again. This was the voice of Hii-lani-wai, who was teaching the hula dance to the

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girls of Waianae. Paliula wanted to see the one who had such a sweet voice, so went along the pali and came to a hula house, but the house was closed tight and she could not look in.

She sat down outside. Soon Hii-lani-wai opened the door and saw Paliula and asked her to come in. It was the first time Paliula had seen this kind of dancing. Her delight in the dance took control of her mind, and she forgot her husband and took Hii-lani-wai as her aikane, dwelling with her for a time.

One day they went out into the forest. Kane had sent the dancing trees from Waolani to meet them. While in the forest they heard the trees singing and dancing like human beings. Hii-lani-wai called this a very wonderful thing. Paliula told her that she had seen the trees do this before. The trees made her glad.

They went down to the seaside and visited some days. Paliula desired a boat to go to the island of Kauai. The people told them of the dangerous waters, but the girls were stubborn, so they were given a very small boat. Hii-lani-wai was steering, and Paliula was paddling and bailing out the water. The anger of the seas did not arise. On the way Paliula fell asleep, but the boat swiftly crossed the channel. Their boat was covered with all the colors of the rainbow. Some women on land at last saw

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them and beckoned with their hands for them to come ashore.

Malu-aka (shadow of peace) was the most beautiful of all the women on Kauai. She was kind and hospitable and took them to her house. The people came to see these wonderful strangers. Paliula told Malu-aka her story. She rested, with the Kauai girls, then went with Malu-aka over the island and learned the dances of Kauai, becoming noted throughout the island for her wonderful grace and skill, dancing like the wind, feet not touching the ground. Her songs and the sound of the whirling dance were lifted by the winds and carried into the dreams of Ke-ao-mele-mele.

Meanwhile, Ke-ao-mele-mele was living with her cloud-watchmen and Mo-o-inanea at Ke-

alohi-lani. She began to have dreams, hearing a sweet voice singing and seeing a glorious woman dancing, while winds were whispering in the forests. For five nights she heard the song and the sound of the dance. Then she told Mo-o-inanea, who explained her dream, saying: "That is the voice of Paliula, your sister, who is dancing and singing near the steep places of Kauai. Her brother-husband has forsaken her and she has had much trouble. He is living with Poliahu on Hawaii."

When Ke-ao-mele-mele heard this, she thought

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she would go and live with her sister. Mo-o-inanea approved of the thought and gave her all kinds of kupua power. She told her to go and see the god Kane, who would tell her what to do.

At last she started on her journey with her watching clouds. She went to see Hina and Olopana, and Ku and Hiilei. She saw Kau-mai-liula (twilight resting in the sky), who was very beautiful, like the deep red flowers of the ohia in the shadows of the leaves of the tree. She determined to come back and marry him after her journey to Oahu.

When she left Kuai-he-lani with her followers she flew like a bird over the waves of the sea. Soon she passed Niihau and came to Kauai to the place where Paliula was dancing, and as a cloud with her cloud friends spied out the land. The soft mists of her native land were scattered over the people by these clouds above them. Paliula was reminded of her birth-land and the loved people of her home.

Ke-ao-mele-mele saw the beauty of the dance and understood the love expressed in the chant. She flew away from Kauai, crossed the channel, carne to Waolani, met Kane and Kanaloa and told them she had come to learn from them what was the right thing to do for the sister and the husband who had deserted her. Kane suggested a visit to Hawaii to see Paliula and the chief,

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so she flew over the islands to Hawaii. Then she went up the mountain with the ao-pii-kai (a cloud rising from the sea and climbing the mountain) until she saw Poliahu and her beautiful sisters.

Poliahu looked down the mountain-side and saw a woman coming, but she looked again and the woman had disappeared. In a little while a golden cloud rested on the summit of the mountain. It was the maid in her cloud body watching her brother and the girl of the white mountains. For more than twenty days she remained in that place. Then she returned to Waolani on Oahu.

Ke-ao-mele-mele determined to learn the hulas and the accompanying songs. Kane told her she ought to learn these things. There was a fine field for dancing at the foot of the mountain near Waolani, and Kane had planted a large kukui-tree by its side to give it shade.

Kane and his sister Anuenue went to this field and sat down in their place. The daughters of Nuuanu Pali were there. Kane sent Ke-ao-mele-mele after the dancing-goddess, Kapo, who lived at Mauna Loa. She was the sister of the poison-gods and knew the art of sorcery, Ke-ao-mele-mele took gifts, went to Kapo, made offerings, and thus for the first time secured a goddess for the hula.

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Kapo taught Ke-ao-mele-mele the chants and the movements of the different hulas until she was very skilful. She flew over the seas to Oahu and showed the gods her skill. Then, she went to Kauai, danced on the surf and in the clouds and above the forests and in the whirlwinds. Each night she went to one of the other islands, danced in the skies and over the waters, and returned home. At last she went to Hawaii to Mauna Kea, where she saw Kahanai, her brother. She persuaded him to leave the maiden of the snow mantle and return to Waolani. Paliula and her friends had returned to the home with Waka, where she taught the leaves of clinging vines and the flowers and leaves on the tender swinging branches of the forest trees new motions in their dances with the many kinds of winds.

One day Kahanai saw signs among the stars and in the clouds which made him anxious to travel, so he asked Kane for a canoe. Kane called the eepa and the menehune people and told them to make canoes to carry Kahanai to his parents.

These boats were made in the forests of Waolani. When the menehunes finished their boat they carried it down Nuuanu Valley to Puunui. There they rested and many of the little folk came to help, taking the canoe down, step by

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step, to the mouth of the Nuuanu stream, where they had the aid of the river to the ocean.

The menehunes left the boat floating in the water and went back to Waolani. Of the fairy people it was said: "No task is difficult. It is the work of one hand."

On the way down Nuuanu Valley the menehunes came to Ka-opua-ua (storm cloud). They heard the shouting of other people and hurried along until they met the Namunawa people, the eepas, carrying a boat, pushing it down. When they told the eepas that the chief had already started on his journey with double canoes, the eepas left their boat there to slowly decay, but it is said that it lasted many centuries.

The people who made this boat were the second class of the little people living at Waolani, having the characters of human beings, yet having also the power of the fairy people. These were the men of the time of Kane and the gods.

Kahanai and his friends were in their boat when a strong wind swept down Nuuanu, carrying the dry leaves of the mountains and sweeping them into the sea. The waves were white as the boat was blown out into the ocean. Kahanai steered by magic power, and the boat like lightning swept away from the islands to the homes of Ku. and Hina. The strong wind and

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the swift current were with the boat, and the voyage was through the waves like swift lightning flashing through clouds.

Ku and Hiilei saw the boat coming. Its signs were in the heavens. Ku came and asked the travellers, "What boat is this, and from what place has it come?"

Kahanai said, "This boat has come from Waolani, the home of the gods Kane and Kanaloa and of Ke-ao-mele-mele."

Then Ku asked again, "Whose child are you?"

He replied, "The son of Ku and Hina."

"How many other children in your family?"

He said: " There are three of us. I am the boy and there are two sisters, Paliula and Ke-ao-mele-mele. I have been sent by Ke-ao-mele-mele to get Kau-mai-liula and Kau-lana-iki-pokii to go to Oahu."

Ku and his wife agreed to the call of the messenger for their boy Kau-mai-liula.

When Kahanai saw him he knew that there was no other one so fine as this young man who quickly consented to go to Oahu with his servants.

Ku called for some beautiful red boats with red sails, red paddles,-everything red. Four good boatmen were provided for each boat, men who came from the land of Ulu-nui-the land of the yellow sea and the black sea of Kane--and obeyed the call of Mo-o-inanea. They had

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kupua power. They were relatives of Kane and Kanaloa.

The daughter of Hina and Olopana, Kau-lana-iki-pokii, cried to go with her brother, but Mo-o-inanea called for her dragon family to make a boat for her and ordered one of the sorcerer dragons to go with her and guard her. They called the most beautiful shells of the sea to become the boats for the girl and her attendants. They followed the boats of Kahanai. With one stroke of the paddles the boats passed through the seas around the home of the gods. With the second stroke they broke through all the boundaries of the great ocean and with the third dashed into the harbor of old Honolulu, then known as Kou.

When the boats of Kahanai and Kau-mai-liula came to the surf of Mamala, there was great shouting inland of Kou, the voices of the eepas of Waolani. Mists and rainbows rested over Waolani. The menehunes gathered in great multitudes at the call of Kane, who had seen the boats approaching.

The menehune people ran down to lift up the boats belonging to the young chief. They made

a line from Waolani to the sea. They lifted up the boats and passed them from hand to hand without any effort, shouting with joy.

While these chiefs were going up to Waolani, {p. 145} Ke-ao-mele-mele came from Hawaii in her cloud boats.

Kane had told the menehunes to prepare houses quickly for her. It was done like the motion of the eye.

Ke-ao-mele-mele entered her house, rested, and after a time practised the hula.

The chiefs also had houses prepared, which they entered.

The shell boats found difficulty in entering the bay because the other boats were in the way. So they turned off to the eastern side of the harbor. Thus the ancient name of that side was given Ke-awa-lua (the second harbor, or the second landing-place in the harbor). Here they landed very quietly. The shell boats became very small and Kau-lana and her companions took them and hid them in their clothes. They went along the beach, saw some fish. The attendants took them for the girl. This gave the name Kau-lana-iki-pokii to that place to this day. As they went along, the dragon friend made the signs of a high chief appear over the girl. The red rain and arching bow were over her, so the name was given to that place, Ka-ua-koko-ula (blood rain), which is the name to this day.

The dragon changed her body and carried the girl up Nuuanu Valley very swiftly to the house

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of Ke-ao-mele-mele (the maiden of the golden cloud) without the knowledge of Kane and the others. They heard the hula of Ke-ao-mele-mele. Soon she felt that some one was outside, and looking saw the girl and her friend, with the signs of a chief cover her.

So she called:

"Is that you, O eye of the day?
O lightning-like eye from Kahiki,
The remembered one coming to me.
The strong winds have been blowing,
Trembling comes into my breast,
A stranger perhaps is outside,
A woman whose sign is the fog,
A stranger and yet my young sister,
The flower of the divine home-land,
The wonderful land of the setting sun
Going down into the deep blue sea.
You belong to the white ocean of Kane,
You are Kau-lana-iki-pokii,
The daughter of the sunset,

The woman coming in the mist,
In the thunder and the flash of lightning
Quivering in the sky above.
Light falls on the earth below.
The sign of the chiefess,
The woman high up in the heavens,
Kau-lana-iki-pokii,
Enter, enter, here am I."

Those outside heard the call and understood that Ke-ao-mele-mele knew who they were. They entered and saw her in all the beauty of her high divine Wood.

They kissed. Kau-lana told how she had come. Ke-ao-mele-mele told the dragon to go

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and stay on the mountain by the broken pali at the head of Nuuanu Valley. So she went to the precipice and became the watchman of that place. She was the first dragon on the islands. She watched with magic power. Later, Mo-o-inanea came with many dragons to watch over the islands. Ke-ao-mele-mele taught her young sister the different hulas and meles, so that they were both alike in their power.

When the young men heard hula voices in the other houses they thought they would go and see the dancers. At the hour of twilight Waolani shook as if in an earthquake, and there was thunder and lightning.

The young men and Anuenue went to the house and saw the girls dancing, and wondered how Kau-lana had come from the far-off land.

Ke-ao-mele-mele foretold the future for the young people. She told Kau-lana that she would never marry, but should have magic medicine power for all coming days, and Kahanai should have the power over all customs of priests and sorcerers and knowledge of sacrifices, and should be the bosom friend of the medicine-goddess. She said that they would all go to Waipio, Hawaii. Kane, Kanaloa, and Anuenue approved of her commands.

Ke-ao-mele-mele sent Kau-lana to Hawaii to tell Paliula to come and live with them at Waipio

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and find Kahanai once more. Kau-lana hastened to Hawaii in her shell boat. She called, "O my red shell boat of the deep blue sea and the black sea, come up to me."

The shell boat appeared on the surface of the sea, floating. The girl was carried swiftly to Hawaii. There she found Waka and Paliula and took them to Waipio. They lived for a time there, then all went to Waolani to complete the marriage of Ke-ao-mele-mele to Kau-mai-liula.

Kane sent Waka and Anuenue for Ku and Hiilei, Hina and Olopana with Mo-o-inanea to come to Oahu.

Mo-o-inanea prepared large ocean-going canoes for the two families, but she and her people went in their magic boats.

Mo-o-inanea told them they would never return to these lands, but should find their future home in Hawaii.

Waka went on Ku's boat, Anuenue was with Hina. Ku and his friends looked back, the land was almost lost; they soon saw nothing until the mountains of Oahu appeared before them.

They landed at Heeia on the northern side of the Nuuanu precipice, went over to Waolani, and met all the family who had come before.

Before Mo-o-inanea left her land she changed it, shutting up all the places where her family

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had lived. She told all her kupua dragon family to come with her to the place where the gods had gone. Thus she made the old lands entirely different from any other lands, so that no other persons but gods or ghosts could live in them.

Then she rose up to come away. The land was covered with rainclouds, heavy and black. The land disappeared and is now known as "The Hidden Land of Kane."

She landed on Western Oahu, at Waialua, so that place became the home of the dragons, and it was filled with the dragons from Waialua to Ewa.

This was the coming of dragons to the Hawaiian Islands.

At the time of the marriage of Ke-ao-mele-mele and Kau-mai-liula, the Beautiful Daughter of Sunset came from the island Hawaii bringing the two trees Makalei and Makuukao, which prepared cooked food and fish. When she heard the call to the marriage she came with the trees. Makalei brought great multitudes of fish from all the ocean to the Koo-lau-poko side of the island Oahu. The ocean was red with the fish.

Makuukao came to Nuuanu Valley with Kau-lana, entered Waolani, and provided plenty of food.

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Then Makalei started to come up from the sea.

Kau-lana-iki-pokii told the gods and people that there must not be any noise when that great tree came up from the sea. They must hear and remain silent.

When the tree began to come to the foot of the pali, the menehunes and eepas were astonished and began to shout with a great voice, for they thought this was a mighty kupua from Kahiki coming to destroy them.

When they had shouted, Makalei fell down at the foot of the pali near Ka-wai-nui, and lies

there to this day. So this tree never came to Waolani and the fish were scattered around the island.

Kau-lana's wrath was very great, and he told Kane and the others to punish these noisy ones, to take them away from this wonderful valley of the gods. He said, "No family of these must dwell on Waolani." Thus the fairies and the gnomes were driven away and scattered over the islands.

For a long time the Maiden of the Golden Cloud and her husband, Twilight Resting in the Sky, ruled over all the islands even to the mysterious lands of the ocean. When death came they laid aside their human bodies and never made use of them again-but as aumakuas,

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or ghost-gods, they assumed their divine forms, and in the skies, over the mountains and valleys, they have appeared for hundreds of years watching over and cheering their descendants.

NOTE.--See now article on "Dragon Ghost-gods " in Part II.

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Next: XVI. Puna and the Dragon

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inanea said she might go, but if they brought up that child he must not have a wife from any of the women of Hawaii-nui-akea (great wide Hawaii).

Anuenue asked, "Suppose I get that child; who is to give it the proper name?"

Mo-o-inanea said: "You bring the child to our brothers and they will name this child. They have sent you, and the responsibility of the name rests on them."

Anuenue said good-by, and in the twinkling of an eye stood at the door of the house where Ku dwelt.

Ku looked outside and saw the bright glow of the rainbow, but no cloud or rain, so he called Hina. "Here is a strange thing. You must come and look at it. There is no rain and there are no clouds or mist, but there is a rainbow at our door."

They went out, but Anuenue had changed her rainbow body and stood before them as a very beautiful woman, wrapped only in the colors of the rainbow.

Ku and Hina began to shiver with a nameless terror as they looked at this strange maiden. They faltered out a welcome, asking her to enter their house.

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As she came near to them Ku said, "From what place do you come?"

Anuenue said: "I am from the sky, a messenger sent by my brothers to get your child that they may bring it up. When grown, if the child wants its parents, we will bring it back. If it loves us it shall stay with us."

Hina bowed her head and Ku wailed, both thinking seriously for a little while. Then Ku said: "If Mo-o-inanea has sent you she shall have the child. You may take this word to her."

Anuenue replied: "I have just come from her and the word I brought you is her word. If I go away I shall not come again."

Hina said to Ku: "We must give this child according to her word. It is not right to disobey Mo-o-inanea."

Anuenue took the child and studied the omens for its future, then she said, "This child is of the very highest, the flower on the top of the tree."

She prepared to take the child away, and bade the parents farewell. She changed her body into the old rainbow colors shining out of a mist, then she wrapped the child in the rainbow, bearing it away.

Ku and Hina went out looking up and watching the cloud of rainbow colors floating in the sky. Strong, easy winds blew and carried this

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cloud out over the ocean. The navel-string had not been cut off, so Anuenue broke off part and threw it into the ocean, where it became the Hee-makoko, a blood-red squid. This is the legendary origin of that kind of squid.

Anuenue passed over many islands, coming at last to Waolani to the temple built by the gnomes under Kane and Kanaloa. They consecrated the child, and cut off another part of the navel-cord. Kanaloa took it to the Nuuanu pali back of Honolulu, to the place called Kaipu-o-Lono. Kane and Kanaloa consulted about servants to live with the boy, and decided that they must have only ugly ones, who would not be desired as wives by their boy. Therefore they gathered together the lame, crooked, deformed, and blind among the gnome people. There were hundreds of these living in different homes, and performing different tasks. Anuenue was the ruler over all of them. This child was named Kahanai-a-ke-Akua (the one adopted by the gods). He was given a very high tabu by Kane and Kanaloa. No one was allowed to stand before him and no person's shadow could fall upon him.

Hina again conceived. The signs of this child appeared in the heavens and were seen on Oahu. Kane wanted to send Lanihuli and Waipuhia, their daughters, living near the pali of Waolani

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and Nuuanu. The girls asked where they should go.

Kane said: "We send you to the land Kuai-he-lani, a land far distant from Hawaii, to get the child of Hina. If the parents ask you about your journey, tell them you have come for the child. Tell our names and refer to Mo-o-inanea. You must now look at the way by which to go to Kuai-he-lani.

They looked and saw a great bird--Iwa. They got on this bird and were carried far up in the heavens. By and by the bird called two or three times. The girls were frightened and looking down saw the bright shining land Kuai-he-lani below them. The bird took them to the door of Ku's dwelling-place.

Ku and Hina were caring for a beautiful girl-baby. They looked up and saw two fine women at their door. They invited them in and asked whence they came and why they travelled.

The girls told them they were sent by the gods Kane and Kanaloa. Suddenly a new voice was heard. Mo-o-inanea was by the house. She called to Ku and to Hina, telling them to give the child into the hands of the strangers, that they might take her to Waka, a great priestess, to be brought up by her in the ohia forests of the island of Hawaii. She named that girl Paliula, and explained to the parents that when

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Paliula should grow up, to be married, the boy of Waolani should be her husband. The girls then took the babe. They were all carried by the bird, Iwa, far away in the sky to Waolani, where they told Kane and Kanaloa the message or prophecy of Mo-o-inanea.

The gods sent Iwa with the child to Waka, on Hawaii, to her dwelling-place in the districts of Hilo and Puna where she was caring for all kinds of birds in the branches of the trees and among the flowers.

Waka commanded the birds to build a house for Paliula. This was quickly done. She commanded the bird Iwa to go to Nuumea-lani, a far-off land above Kuai-he-lani, the place where Mo-o-inanea was now living.

It was said that Waka, by her magic power, saw in that land two trees, well cared for by multitudes of servants; the name of one was "Makalei." This was a tree for fish. All kinds of fish would go to it. The second was "Kalala-ika-wai." This was the tree used for getting all kinds of food. Call this tree and food would appear.

Waka wanted Mo-o-inanea to send these trees to Hawaii.

Mo-o-inanea gave these trees to Iwa, who brought them to Hawaii and gave them to Waka. Waka rejoiced and took care of them. The

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bird went back to Waolani, telling Kane and Kanaloa all the journey from first to last.

The gods gave the girls resting-places in the fruitful lands under the shadow of the beautiful Nuuanu precipices.

Waka watched over Paliula until she grew up, beautiful like the moon of Mahea-lani (full moon).

The fish tree, Makalei, which made the fish of all that region tame, was planted by the side of running water, in very restful places spreading all along the river-sides to the seashore. Fish came to every stream where the trees grew, and filled the waters.

The other tree was planted and brought prepared food for Paliula. The hidden land where this place was has always been called Paliula, a beautiful green spot-a home for fruits and flowers and birds in a forest wilderness.

When Paliula had grown up, Waka went to Waolani to meet Kane, Kanaloa, and Anuenue. There she saw Kahanai-a-ke-Akua (the boy brought up by the gods) and desired him for Paliula's husband. There was no man so splendid and no woman so beautiful as these two. The caretakers decided that they must be husband and wife.

Waka returned to the island Hawaii to prepare for the coming of the people from Waolani.

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Waka built new houses finer and better than the first, and covered them with the yellow feathers of the Mamo bird with the colors of the rainbow resting over. Anuenue had sent some of her own garments of rainbows.

Then Waka went again to Waolani to talk with Kane and Kanaloa and their sister Anuenue.

They said to her: "You return, and Anuenue will take Kahanai and follow. When the night of their arrival comes, lightning will play over all the mountains above Waolani and through the atmosphere all around the temple, even to Hawaii. After a while, around your home the leaves of the trees will dance and sing and the ohia-trees themselves bend back and forth shaking their beautiful blossoms. Then you may know that the Rainbow Maiden and the boy are by your home on the island of Hawaii.

Waka returned to her home in the tangled forest above Hilo. There she met her adopted daughter and told her about the coming of her husband.

Soon the night of rolling thunder and flashing lightning came. The people of all the region around Hilo were filled with fear. Kane-hekili (flashing lightning) was a miraculous body which Kane had assumed. He had gone before the boy and the rainbow, flashing his way through the heavens.

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The gods had commanded Kane-hekili to dwell in the heavens in all places wherever the gods desired him to be, so that he could go wherever commanded. He always obeyed without questioning.

The thunder and lightning played over ocean and land while the sun was setting beyond the islands in the west.

After a time the trees bent over, the leaves danced and chanted their songs. The flowers made a glorious halo as they swayed back and forth in their dances.

Kane told the Rainbow Maiden to take their adopted child to Hawaii-nui-akea.

When she was ready, she heard her brothers calling the names of trees which were to go with her on her journey. Some of the legends say that Laka, the hula-god, was dancing before the two. The tree people stood before the Rainbow Maiden and the boy, ready to dance all the way to Hawaii. The tree people are always restless and in ceaseless motion. The gods told them to sing together and dance. Two of the tree people were women, Ohia and Lamakea. Lamakea is a native whitewood tree. There are large trees at Waialae in the mountains of the island Oahu. Ohia is a tree always full of fringed red blossoms. They were very beautiful in their wind bodies. They were kupuas,

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or wizards, and could be moving trees or dancing women as they chose.

The Rainbow Maiden took the boy in her arms up into the sky, and with the tree people went on her journey. She crossed over the islands to the mountains of the island Hawaii, then went down to find Paliula.

She placed the tree people around the house to dance and sing with soft rustling noises.

Waka heard the chants of the tree people and opened the door of the glorious house, calling for Kahanai to come in. When Paliula saw him, her heart fluttered with trembling delight, for she knew this splendid youth was the husband selected by Waka, the prophetess. Waka called the two trees belonging to Paliula to bring plenty of fish and food.

Then Waka and Anuenue left their adopted children in the wonderful yellow feather house.

The two young people, when left together, talked about their birthplaces and their parents. Paliula first asked Kahanai about his land and his father and mother. He told her that he was the child of Ku and Hina from Kuai-he-lani, brought up by Kane and the other gods at Waolani.

The girl went out and asked Waka about her parents, and learned that this was her first-born brother, who was to be her husband because

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they had very high divine blood. Their descendants would be the chiefs of the people. This marriage was a command from parents and ancestors and Mo-o-inanea.

She went into the house, telling the brother who she was, and the wish of the gods.

After ten days they were married and lived together a long time.

At last, Kahanai desired to travel all around Hawaii. In this journey he met Poliahu, the white-mantle girl of Mauna Kea, the snow-covered mountain of the island Hawaii.

Meanwhile, in Kuai-he-lani, Ku and Hina were living together. One day Mo-o-inanea called to Hina, telling her that she would be the mother of a more beautiful and wonderful child than her other two children. This child should live in the highest places of the heavens and should have a multitude of bodies which could be seen at night as well as in the day.

Mo-o-inanea went away to Nuumea-lani and built a very wonderful house in Ke-alohi-lani (shining land), a house always turning around by day and by night like the ever moving clouds, indeed, it was built of all kinds of clouds and covered with fogs. There she made a spring of flowing water and put it outside for the coming child to have as a bath. There she planted the seeds of magic flowers, Kanikawi and Kanikawa,

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legendary plants of old Hawaii. Then she went to Kuai-he-lani and found Ku and Hina asleep. She took a child out of the top of the head of Hina and carried it away to the new home, naming it Ke-ao-mele-mele (the yellow cloud), the Maiden of the Golden Cloud, a wonderfully beautiful girl.

No one with a human body was permitted to come to this land of Nuumea-lani. No kupuas

were allowed to make trouble for the child.

The ao-opua (narrow-pointed clouds) were appointed watchmen serving Ke-ao-mele-mele, the Maiden of the Golden Cloud.

All the other clouds were servants: the ao-opua-kakahiaka (morning clouds), ao-opua-ahiahi (evening clouds), ao-opua-aumoe (night clouds), ao-opua-kiei (peeking clouds), ao-opua-aha-lo (down-looking clouds), ao-opua-ku (image shaped clouds rising at top of sea), opua-hele (morning-flower clouds), opua-noho-mai (resting clouds), opua-mele-mele (gold-colored clouds), opua-lani (clouds high up), ka-pae-opua (at surface of sea or clouds along the horizon), ka-lani-opua (clouds up above horizon), ka-makao-ka-lani (clouds in the eye of the sun), ka-wele-lau-opua (clouds highest in the sky).

All these clouds were caretakers watching for the welfare of that girl. Mo-o-inanea gave them their laws for service.

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She took Ku-ke-ao-loa (the long cloud of Ku) and put him at the door of the house of clouds, with great magic power. He was to be the messenger to all the cloud-lands of the parents and ancestors of this girl.

"The Eye of the Sun" was the cloud with magic power to see all things passing underneath near or far.

Then there was the opua-alii, cloud-chief with the name Ka-ao-opua-ola (the sharp-pointed living cloud). This was the sorcerer and astronomer, never weary, never tired, knowing and watching over all things.

Mo-o-inanea gave her mana-nui or great magic power, to Ke-ao-mele-mele--with divine tabus. She made this child the heir of all the divine islands, therefore she was able to know what was being done everywhere. She understood how the Kahanai had forsaken his sister to live with Poliahu. So she went to Hawaii to aid her sister Paliula.

When Mo-o-inanea had taken the child from the head of Hina, Ku and Hina were aroused. Ku went out and saw wonderful cloud images standing near the house, like men. Ku and Hina watched these clouds shining and changing colors in the light of the dawn, as the sun appeared. The light of the sun streamed over the skies. For three days these changing clouds

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were around them. Then in the midst of these clouds appeared a strange land of the skies surrounded by the ao-opua (the narrow-pointed clouds). In the night of the full moon, the aka (ghost) shadow of that land leaped up into the moon and became fixed there. This was the Alii-wahine-aka-malu (the queen of shadows), dwelling in the moon.

Ku and Hina did not understand the meaning of these signs or shadows, so they went back into the house, falling into deep sleep.

Mo-o-inanea spoke to Hina in her dreams, saying that these clouds were signs of her daughter born from the head-a girl having great knowledge and miraculous power in sorcery, who would take care of them in their last days. They must learn all the customs of kilo-kilo, or sorcery.

Mo-o-inanea again sent Ku-ke-ao-loa to the house of Ku, that cloud appearing as a man at their door.

They asked who he was. He replied: "I am a messenger sent to teach you the sorcery or witcheries of cloud-land. You must have this knowledge that you may know your cloud-daughter. Let us begin our work at this time."

They all went outside the house and sat down on a stone at the side of the door.

Ku-ke-ao-loa looked up and called Mo-o-inanea by name. His voice went to Ke-alohi-lani,

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and Mo-o-inanea called for all the clouds to come with their ruler Ke-ao-mele-mele.

"Arise, O yellow cloud,
Arise, O cloud-the eye of the sun,
Arise, O beautiful daughters of the skies,
Shine in the eyes of the sun, arise!"

Ke-ao-mele-mele arose and put on her glorious white kapas like the snow on Mauna Kea. At this time the cloud watchmen over Kuai-he-lani were revealing their cloud forms to Hina and Ku. The Long Cloud told Hina and Ku to look sharply into the sky to see the meaning of all the cloud forms--which were servants of the divine chiefess, their habits of meeting, moving, separating, their forms, their number, the stars appearing through them, the fixed stars and moving clouds, the moving stars and moving clouds, the course of the winds among the different clouds.

When he had taught Ku and Hina the sorcery of cloud-land, he disappeared and returned to Ke-alohi-lani.

Some time afterward, Ku went out to the side of their land. He saw a cloud of very beautiful form, appearing like a woman. This was resting in the sky above his head. Hina woke up, missed Ku, looked out and saw Ku sitting on the beach watching the clouds above him. She went to him and by her power told him that he had the desire to travel and that he might

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go on his journey and find the woman of his vision.

A beautiful chiefess, Hiilei, was at that time living in one of the large islands of the heavens. Ku and Hina went to this place. Ku married Hiilei, and Hina found a chief named Olopana and married him. Ku and Hiilei had a red-skin child, a boy, whom they named Kau-mai-liula

(twilight resting in the sky). This child was taken by Mo-o-inanea to Ke-alohi-lani to live with Ke-ao-mele-mele. Olopana and Hina had a daughter whom they called Kau-lana-iki-pokii (beautiful daughter of sunset), who was taken by Ku and Hiilei.

Hina then called to the messenger cloud to come and carry a request to Mo-o-inanea that Kau-mai-liula be given to her and Olopana. This was done. So they were all separated from each other, but in the end the children were taken to Hawaii.

Meanwhile Paliula was living above Hilo with her husband Kahanai-a-ke-Akua (adopted son of the gods). Kahanai became restless and determined to see other parts of the land, so he started on a journey around the islands. He soon met a fine young man Waiola (water of life).

Waiola had never seen any one so glorious in appearance as the child of the gods, so he fell down before him, saying: "I have never seen

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any one so divine as you. You must have come from the skies. I will belong to you through the coming years."

The chief said, "I take you as my aikane [bosom friend] to the last days."

They went down to Waiakea, a village near Hilo, and met a number of girls covered with wreaths of flowers and leaves. Kahanai sent Waiola to sport with them. He himself was of too high rank. One girl told her brother Kanuku to urge the chief to come down, and sent him leis. He said he could not receive their gift, but must wear his own lei. He called for his divine caretaker to send his garlands, and immediately the most beautiful rainbows wrapped themselves around his neck and shoulders, falling down around his body.

Then he came down to Waiakea. The chief took Kanuku also as a follower and went on up the coast to Hamakua.

The chief looked up Mauna Kea and there saw the mountain women, who lived in the white land above the trees. Poliahu stood above the precipices in her kupua-ano (wizard character), revealing herself as a very beautiful woman wearing a white mantle.

When the chief and his friends came near the cold place where she was sitting, she invited them to her home, inland and mountainward.

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The chief asked his friends to go with him to the mountain house of the beauty of Mauna Kea.

They were well entertained. Poliahu called her sisters, Lilinoe and Ka-lau-a-kolea, beautiful girls, and gave them sweet-sounding shells to blow. All through the night they made music and chanted the stirring songs of the grand mountains. The chief delighted in Poliahu and lived many months on the mountain.

XVII. Ke-au-nini

KE-AU-NINI

KU-AHA-ILO was a demon who had no parents. His great effort was to find something to eat--men or any other kind of food. He was a kupua--one who was sometimes an animal and sometimes a man. He was said to be the father of Pele, the goddess of volcanic fires.

Nakula-uka and Nakula-kai were the parents of Hiilei, who was the mother of Ke-au-nini. Nakula-kai told her husband that she was with child. He told her that he was glad, and if it were a boy he would name him, but if a girl she should name the child.

The husband went out fishing, and Nakula-kai went to see her parents, Kahuli and Kakela. The hot sun was rising, so she put leaves over her head and came to the house. Her father was asleep. She told her mother about her condition. Kahuli awoke and turning over shook the land by his motion, *i.e.*, the far-away divine land of Nuu-mea-lani. He asked his daughter why she had come, and when she told him he studied the signs and foretold the birth of a girl who should be named Hina.

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Kahuli's wife questioned his knowledge. He said: "I will prepare awa in a cup, cover it with white kapa, and chant a prayer. I will lift the cover, and if the awa is still there I am at fault. If the awa has disappeared I am correct. It will be proved by the awa disappearing that a girl will be born.

"I was up above Niihau.
O Ku! O Kane! O Lono!
I have dug a hole,
Planted the bamboo;
The bamboo has grown;
Find that bamboo!
It has grown old.
The green-barked bamboo has a green bark;
The white-barked bamboo has a white bark.
Fragments of rain are stinging the skin--
Rain fell that day in storms,
Water pouring in streams.
Mohoalii is by the island,
Island cut off at birth from the mainland;
Many islands as children were born."

A girl was born, and the grandparents kept the child, calling her Hina. She cried, and the grandmother took her in her arms and sang:

"Fishing, fishing, your father is fishing,

took his calabash to get water at the spring Kauwila, and an owl picked a hole in it and let the water

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out. For this the owl was injured by a stone which was thrown at him, and he told the other birds. They said he was rightly punished for his fault.

The brothers found their red boat, launched it, and bade farewell to the chief's people and lands. They returned to Kuai-he-lani, like a flash of lightning speeding along the coast from south to west. The boy in the temple saw them in their swift boat. He told Hiilei and prepared for their coming. They landed, feasted, and told their story. Then they prepared for their journey to Waipio. Their boat was pulled by fish in place of boatmen, and these disappeared upon arrival at Hawaii. Ke-au-kai went first to meet Olopana, who ran down to see Ke-au-nini and asked how he came. Ke-au-nini said, "There was no wandering, no murmuring, no hunger, no pinched faces."

Then they feasted while over them thunder and lightning played and mist covered the house. Awa was thrown before the spirit of the thunder and they established tabus.

Olopana had trouble with his priests and became angry and wanted to punish them because they did not know how to do their work so well as Ke-au-nini. They could make thunder and lightnings and earthquakes, but Ke-au-nini blew toward the east and something like a

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man appeared in a cloud of dust; he put his right hand in the dust and began to make land. Olopana saw this and thought it was done by the kahunas (priests) and so he forgave them, thinking they had more power than Ke-au-nini. Later he ordered them to be killed and cooked. Olopana asked Ke-au-nini, "Which of the tabu houses do you wish to take as your residence?" Ke-au-nini replied: "My house is the lightning, the bloody sky, or the dark cloud hanging over Kuai-he-lani, down the ridge or extending cape Ke-au-oku, where Ku of Kauhika is, where multitudes of eyes bend low before the gods. The house of my parents--there is where I dwell. You have heard of that place."

Olopana was greatly astonished, bowed his head and thought for a long time, then said: "We will set apart our tabu days for worship, and I will see your tabu place--you in your place and I outside. When you are through your days of tabu you must return and we will live together."

Ke-au-nini raised his eyes and spoke softly to the clouds above him: "O my parents, this my brother-in-law wishes to see our dwelling-place, therefore call Ke-au-kai to send down our tabu dwelling-place."

Ke-au-kai was near him, and said: "We had very many troubles on the ocean in coming after the one whom you want for your wife. You

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aided us to escape; perhaps the old man in the skies will hear you if you call." Then Ke-au-nini turned toward the east:

"Ke-au-nini has his home,
His home with his mother.
Hiilei, the wife,
She was the child of Nakula-uka,
The first-born Kakela.
The cheeks grow red;
And the eyes flash fire.
In the Lewa-lani [heavens],
The very heart of the lightning.
A double rainbow is high arched.
The voice of the Kana-mu are heard.
Calling and crying are the Kana-wa.
[The Kana-mu and the Kana-wa were companies of little people, *i.e.*, fairies.]
I continually call to you, O little ones,
Come here with the white feathers,
Let feathers come here together;
Let all the colors of the tortoise-back
Gather and descend;
Let all the posts stand strong;
Braced shall be the house;
Fasten in also the smoke-colored feathers;
Work swiftly and complete our tabu house."

Then the darkness of evening came, and in the shadows the little people labored in the moonless night. Soon their work was done, the house finished, and a sacred drum placed inside. When the clear sky of the morning rested over, and the sun made visible the fairy home in the early dawn, the People cried out with wonder at the beautiful thing before them. There stood a house of glowing feathers of all colors. Posts

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and rafters of polished bones shone like the ivory teeth of the whale, tinted in the smoke of a fire. Softly swayed the feathered thatch in a gentle breeze, rustling through the surrounding coco-trees. Most beautiful it was, as in the chant of Lilinoe:

Hulei Lilinoe me Kuka-hua-ula;
Hele Hoaheo i kai o Mokuleia."

"Lifted up, blown by the wind are
The falls down to the sea of Mokuleia."

Ke-au-nini told his brother-in-law, "Oh, my brother, look upon my tabu dwelling-place as you wished."

Olopana was very curious, and asked, "How many people are needed to make a house like this so quickly?" Ke-au-nini laughed and said, "You have seen my people: there are three of us who built this house--I, the chief, and my two friends."

He did not give the names of the little people, Kana-mu and Kana-wa, who were really great multitudes, like the menehunes who made the ditch at Waimea, Kauai. They were the one-night people. All this work was finished while they alone could see clearly to use their magic powers.

Inside the house lay soft mats made from feathers of many birds, and sleeping--couches better than had ever been seen before. Ke-au-nini said to his brother-in-law: "We are now ready

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to have the tabu of our house. My parents will enter with me."

Olopana asked his kahunas if it were right for the parents to stay with the chief during a tabu, under the law of their land. The priests consulted and told Olopana that this was all right. They had no power to forbid. The parents had divine power, so also the boy, both alike, and could dwell together without breaking tabu. Then they said, "If you forbid, you will be landless."

Ke-au-kai and Ke-au-miki entered the house with their young chief. Ke-au-miki beat the sacred drum, announcing the tabu. They poured and drank awa, ate sugar-cane and chanted softly to the rhythm of the drum. Olopana was filled with jealousy because all was hidden from him. He did not know what a drum was. He had only known a time of tabu, but not the secret drum, and the soft chant.

During the ten days' tabu Ke-au-nini did not see his wife, but remained shut in his place. Olopana called for all the people to bring presents. When the tabu was over and the temple door opened, Ke-au-nini and Haina-kolo prepared for the marriage.

All the people came bringing feather mats, food, fish, and awa, which had been growing on a tree. Hamakua sent food and fish; Hilo sent

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olona and feathers; Puna sent mats and awa from the trees; Kau sent kapa; Kona sent red kapas; Kohala sent its wonderful noted sweet potatoes. The young chiefess appeared before all the people, coming from her tabu place, and she saw all the fine presents, and a great coconut-leaf lanai (porch) prepared by her brother. She came there before her parents and brother. They were waiting for Ke-au-nini, who delayed coming. Olopana asked his priests: "Why does the young chief fail to appear? We are all ready for the marriage feast." The priest said to Olopana: "Do you think that you can treat this man as one of us? He is a god on his father's side and also on his mother's. He is very high. It is on his mother's side that you are related. You should go to him with a sacrifice. Take a black pig, a cup of awa, a black

chicken, and a coconut. If we do not do these things we shall not know where he is staying, for he is under the care of the gods. Now is the right time to go with the offering. Go quickly. The sun is rising high in the sky."

Olopana quickly gathered the offerings and went away to sacrifice before Ke-au-nini. He called him thus:

"Rise up! Let your strength look inland;
Let your might look toward the sea;
Let your face look upward;
Look up to the sun over your head; {p. 188}
The strange night has passed.
Awake! Here are the offerings,
Food for the gods: Let life come!"

He set the pig free and it ran to the feet of Ke-au-nini. The chicken did the same, and the other offerings were laid before the door. Olopana went back. Ke-au-nini and his uncles awoke. He said to them: "Now the tabu is lifted. Now the hour of the marriage has come. We must prepare to go down to the sea. We shall see the sports of this land. Soon we shall meet the priests and the people."

They arose and opened their bundles of kapa, very fine and soft for red malos (girdles) for the uncles. Ke-au-nini put on his malo, called Ke-kea-awe-awe-ula (the red girdle with long ends, shaded in the tints of the rainbow) and his red feather cloak and his red feather helmet, nodding like a bird. His skin, polished and perfumed, shone resplendently. He was most gorgeous in his appearance.

When he went out of his house, thatched with bird feathers and built of polished bones, darkness spread over the sky. The voices of the little fairies, the Kana-mu and Kana-wa were heard. The people in the great coconut lanai were filled with wonder, for they had never seen darkness come in this way. It was like the sun eclipsed. When Ke-au-nini and his companions

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entered the lanai, the darkness passed away and all the people saw them in their splendor. The chiefs opened a way for the three. Ke-au-miki came in first and the people thought he was the husband, but when Ke-au-kai came they said, "This one is more beautiful," and when Ke-au-nini passed before them they fell on their faces, although he had a gauze kapa thrown over him. He passed on between rows of chiefs to the place of marriage. His uncles stepped aside, and then he threw off his thin kapa and the people shouted again and again until the echoes shook the precipices around the valley,

Then Haina-kolo came out of her house near by and was guided to the side of her husband. As she saw him her heart melted and flowed to him like the mingling of floating sea-mosses. Olopana arose and said: "O chiefs and people, I have been asked to come here to the marriage of my sister with one whom she has met in dreams and loved. I agree to this wedding. Our parents approve, and the gods have given their signs. Our chiefess shall

belong to the stranger. You shall obey him. I will do as he may direct. They shall now become husband and wife."

The people shouted again and again, saying, "This is the husband of our chiefess." Then began the hookupu. Six districts brought six piles of offerings. There were treasures and

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treasures of all kinds. Then came the wonderful feast of all the people.

The fish companions of Ke-au-nini, who had drawn his boat from Kuai-he-lani, wanted Haina-kolo for themselves. While they were at the feast they found they could not get her, and they grew cold and ashamed and angry. Soon they broke away from the feast. Moi and Uhu ran away to the sea and returned. to their homes. Niu-loa-hiki (a great eel) looked at Ke-au-nini and said: "You are very strange. I thought I should have my reward this day, but the winning has come to you. I am angry, because you are my servant. It is a shame for the chiefs of Hawaii to let you become their ruler." His angry eyes flashed fire, he opened his mouth and started to cry out again, but the people saw him and shouted: "Look, look, there is an eel that comes to the land. He runs and dives into the sea. This eel, Niu-loa-hiki, is more evil than any other of all the family of eels."

Then all the fish ran off angry at this failure and gathered in the sea for consultation. Uhu said he would return at once to Makapuu. He was the Uhu who had the great battle with Kawelo when he was caught in a net. Moi went to the rough water outside the harbor. Kumu-nuiaiake went to Hilo. He was the huge fish with which Limaloa had a great battle when he

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came to visit Hawaii. He was killed by Limaloa. Hou and Awela went wherever they could find a ditch to swim in.

The people feasted on the mullet of Lolakea and the baked dogs of Hilo and the humpbacked mullet of Waiakea and all the sweet things of Hawaii. Then the sports commenced and there was surf-riding, dancing, wrestling, and boxing.

Kawelo-hea, the surf-rider of Kawa in Oahu, was the best surf-rider. Hina-kahua, the child of the battling-places of Kohala, was the best boxer. Pilau-hulu, the noted boy of Olaa, was the best puhenehene-player. Lilinoe was the best konane-player. Luu-kia was the best kilu-player. She was a relative of Haina-kolo.

When the sports were over they returned to the chief's house and slept. Haina-kolo was one who did not closely adhere to the tabu. She ate the tabu things, which were sacred, belonging to the gods, such as bananas and luau. Ke-au-nini had always carefully, from his birth to marriage-day, observed the tabu, but, following the example of his wife, soon laid aside his carefulness, and lived in full disregard of all restraint for a time.

Then Ke-au-nini left Haina-kolo and returned to Kuai-he-lani because dissensions arose between them on account of their wrong-doing.

He did not tell his wife or friends, or even his uncles, but he took his coconut-boat to go back

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to his home secretly. When he was far out in the ocean his sister saw him from her home in Lewa-lani (the blue sky). She sent Kana-ula, her watchman, to go out and guard him and bring him to her. Kana-ula was a strong wind blowing with the black clouds which rise before a storm.

In a little while the watchman saw Ke-au-nini off Kohala, and by his great strength lifted Ke-au-nini and placed him on Kuai-he-lani, where he saw his mother and relatives. Then he went up to Lewa-lani to his sister and dwelt with her to forget his love for Haina-kolo.

Haina-kolo had a great love for her husband, never making any trouble before they separated. Her love for him was burning and full of passion, while she grieved over his disappearance. She soon had a child. The priests living in the heiau (temple), Pakaalana, beat their drums, and all Waipio knew that a chief was born.

Haina-kolo began to go about like one crazed, longing to see the eyes of her husband. She took her child and launched out in the ocean. The boat in which she placed the child was the long husk of a coconut. She held fast to this and swam and floated by its side. When they had gone far out in the sea a great wind swept over them and upon them, driving them far out of sight of all land. She looked only for death. This wind was Kana-ula, and had been sent by

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Moho, who was very angry at the girl for violating the tabu of the gods and eating the things set apart for the gods. This wind was to blow her far away on the ocean until death came.

When Haina-kolo had been blown a little way she prayed and moved her feet, turning toward the place where she had rejoiced with her husband. Then she offered another prayer and began to swim, but was driven out of sight of land. The wind ceased, its anger passed away, and a new land appeared. She swam toward this new land. Lei-makani, the child, saw this land, which was the high place of Ke-ao-lewa, and chanted:

Destroy the first kou[1] grove;
Destroy the second kou grove;
Open a wonderful door in the evening;
Offer your worship.
Return, return, O bird!

The mother said: "No, my child, that is not a bird. Oh, my child, that is Ke-ao-lewa, the land where we shall find a shore."

But she went on patiently, swimming by the capes of Kohala, and came near to the places of noted surf and was almost on the land. Moho saw her still swimming and sent another wind-servant, Makani-kona, the south wind, to drive her again out in the ocean. This south wind came like a whirlwind, sweeping and twisting

[1. Cordia subcordata.]

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over the waves, sending Haina-kolo far out in the tossing sea. He thought he had killed her, so he went back to Moho.

Moho asked him about his journey over the seas. He replied, "You sent me to kill, and that I did." She was satisfied and ceased her vigilance. Tired and suffering, Haina-kolo and her child floated far out in the ocean, too weary to swim. Then Lei-makani saw Ke-ao-lewa again lifted up and spread out like the wings of a floating bird. Help came to her in a great shark, Kau-naha-ili-pakapaka (Kau-naha, with a rough skin), belonging to the family of Pii-moi, one of the relatives of Ku, who swam up to her and carried her and the child until he was tired. Haina-kolo was rested and warmed by the sun. She saw that her shark friend was growing weak, so she called to the sun, "O sun, go on your way to the land of Ka-lewa-nuu, and tell Ke-au-nini that we are here at the cape of Ka-ia."

The sun did not hear the cry from the sea. She called again, using the same words. The sun heard this call of Haina-kolo and went on to the place where Ke-au-nini was staying and called to him, "O Ke-au-nini, your wife is near the cape of Ka-ia."

Moho heard the call. She was playing konane with her brother. She made a noise to confuse the words of the sun, and said to her brother,

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"O ke ku kela, o ka holo keia. Niole ka luna, kopala ka ele, na ke kea kaai." "Take this one up. Let that one move. Take that up slowly. The black is blotted out, the white wins."

Then the sun called again, saying the same words, and Ke-au-nini heard, leaped up and left his sister, and went down to Kuai-he-lani and entered the temple, where he was accustomed to sleep, and fell as one dead. While he was reclining, his spirit left his body and went down to Milu and stayed there a long time.

Haina-kolo was very near the land in the afternoon. Soon they came to the beach. There she dug a little hole for her child and laid him in his little boat in it and went up the path like a crazy person to the top of the high precipices of Ka-hula-anu (the cold dancing) and began to eat fruit growing on the trees. She clothed herself in leaves, then rushed into the forest.

Lei-makani was still floating where his mother had left him, near a place where the servants of Luu-kia went fishing every morning to get the food loved by the chiefs. Two men, Ka-holo-holo-uka and Ka-holo-holo-kai, had come down for Luu-kia, carrying a net, They threw their net over the water and the child floated into it. They thought they had a great fish. They carried the net up on the beach and found the boy. It was a little dark, and hard to see what

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they were catching. One called to the other, "What have we caught this morning?" The other

said: "I thought we had a great fish, but this is a child. I will take this child to my home." The other said, "No--This is a fish." So they had a quarrel until the sun rose. Then they went up to the village.

Ka-holo-holo-uka told his wife, "We have a child." Then he told her how they had caught Lei-makani. They talked loudly. This chiefess heard their noisy clamor and asked her servant, "What's the trouble with these noisy ones? " They told her and she wanted that child brought to her, and commanded Maile-lau-lii (Small leaf maile) to go and get it. He took it to Luu-kia, who marked its wonderful beauty. She sent for the fishermen to tell her how they got the child. They told her about the fishing.

She wanted to know who were the parents. They said: "We do not know. This may be the child of Haina-kolo, for we know she has disappeared with her child. She may be dead and this may be her boy."

Luu-kia said, "You two take the child, and I will give the name, Lopa-iki-hele-wale [Going without anything]. Then you care for it until it grows up."

They took the child to the land of Opaeloa, as a good place to bring it up. The fishermen said

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to Luu-kia, "Will you provide food, fish, and clothing?" She said, "Yes." They thought the child would not understand, but it knew all these words. The fisherman and his wife took the child away. Waipio Valley people were surrounded by precipices, but the gods of Waipio watched all the troubles by sending messengers to go over to the upland and follow Haina-kolo.

Ku and Hina and Olopana were burdened by the loss of Haina-kolo and Lei-makani, so they went to the temple at Pakaalana, where the uncles of Ke-au-nini were staying. There they consulted the gods with signs and sorceries.

They sent Ke-au-miki to get some little stones at Kea-au, a place near Haena. His brother said: "Get thirteen stones--seven white and six black. Make them fast in a bundle, so they cannot be lost, then come back by Pana-ewa and get awa which man did not plant, but which was carried by the birds to the trees and planted there. Then return this evening and we will study the signs." Ke-au-miki went up the pali (precipice) and hastened along the top running and leaping and flying over Hamakua to Hilo.

The Hilo palis were nothing to this man as he sped swiftly over the gulches until he came to the Wailuku River guarded by the kupua Pili-a-mo-o, who concealed the path so that none

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could find it until a price was paid. The dragon covered the path with its rough skin.

Ke-au-miki stood looking for a path, but could only see what seemed to be pahoehoe lava. The tail of the dragon was like a kukui-tree-trunk lying in the water. He saw the tail switching and rising up to strike him. Then he knew that this was a kupua. The tail almost struck him on

the head. He called to Kahuli in Kuai-he-lani, who sent a mighty wind and hurled aside the waters, caught up the body of the dragon and let it fall, smashing it on the rocks, breaking the beds of lava.

Then Ke-au-miki rushed over the river and up the precipices, speeding along to Pa-ai-ie, where the long ohia point of Pana-ewa is found, then turned toward the sea and went to Haena, to the place where the little stones aala-manu are found. He picked up the stones and ran to Pana-ewa and got the awa hanging on the tree, tied up the awa and stones and hurried back. He crossed the gulch at Konolii and met a man, Lolo-ka-eha, who tried to take the awa away from him. He was a robber. When they carne face to face, Ke-au-miki caught the man with his hand, hurled him over the precipice and killed him. When he saw that this man was dead, he ran as swiftly as the wind until he met a very beautiful woman, Wai-puna-lei. She saw him

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and asked him to be her husband, but he would not stop. He crossed Hilo boundaries to Hamakua, to the place where the trees used for kapa were growing, as the sun was going down over the palis. He came to the temple door and laid down his burden.

Then Ke-au-kai said: "This is my word to all the people: Prepare the awa while I take the little stones, pour awa into a cup: I will cover it up and we will watch the signs. If, while I chant, the bubbles on the awa come to the left side, we will find Haina-kolo. If they go to the right, she is fully lost. Let all the people keep silence; no noise, no running about, no sleeping. Watch all the signs and the clouds in the heavens."

Then he chanted:

"O Ku and Kane and Kanaloa,
Let the magic power come.
Amama us noa.
Tabu is lifted from
My bird-catching place for food.
You are a stranger, I am a resident.
Let the friend be taken care of.
United is the earth of the tabu woman. Amama."

The bubbles stood on the right side, and the priest said, "We shall never find Haina-kolo; the gods have gone away." Olopana said: "I am much troubled for my brother and sister, and that child I wanted for the chief of this land. I

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do not understand why these things have come to us."

All the people were silent, weeping softly, but Ke-au-kai and his brother were not troubled, for they knew their chief and wife were in the care of the aumakuas.

When Lei-makani had grown up, Luu-kia took him as her husband. He went surf-riding daily. She was very jealous of Maile, who would often go surf-riding with him. Lei-makani did not care for her, for he knew she was a sister of his mother although she had a child by him. One day, when he went with Maile, Luu-kia was angry and caught that child and killed it by dashing it against a stone.

The servants went down to the beach, waiting for Lei-makani to come to land. Then they told him about the death of his child and their fear for him if he went up to the house with Maile. Lei-makani left his surf-board and went to the house weeping, and found the child's body by the stone. He took a piece of kapa and wrapped it up, carrying the broken body down to a fountain, where he cleansed it and offered chants and incantations until the child became alive. His mother, Haina-kolo, heard the following chants and came to her son, for the voice was carried to her by kupuas who had magic powers. The child's name was Lono-kai. He wrapped it again

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in soft warm kapas and chanted while he washed the child, naming the fountain Kama-ahala, (a child has passed away):

"Kama-ahala smells of the blood;
The sick smell of the blood rises.
Washed away in the earth is the blood;
Hard is the red blood
Warmed by the beat of the heavens,
Laid out under the shining sky.
Lono-kai-o-lohia is dead."

Then the voice of the child was heard in a low moan from the bundle, saying, "Lono-kai-o-lohia [Lono possessed of the Ala spirit] is alive." The father heard the voice and softly uttered another chant:

"In the silence
Has been heard the gods of the night;
What is this wailing over us?
Wailing for the death of
Lono, the spirit of the sea--dead!"

The voice came again from the kapas, "Lono, the spirit of the sea, is alive." Lei-makani's love for his child was overflowing, and again he uttered an incantation to his own parents:

"O Ku, the father!
O Hina, the mother!
Olopana was the first-born;
Haina-kolo, the sister, was born:
Haina-kolo and Ke-au-nini were the parents:
Lei-makani was the child:

Catching the opoa-pea."

Nakula-kai went down to her home. Her husband returned from fishing. He said he thought another child was born. He had heard the thunder, but no storm. She told him that a boy was born. Nakula-uka named that boy Ke-au-miki (stormy or choppy current). Ten

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days afterward another boy was born. He was named Ke-au-kai (current toward the beach).

These children had no food but awa. Their hair was not cut. They were taken inside a tabu temple and brought up. Nakula-uka and his wife after a long time had another girl named Hiilei (lifted like a lei on the head). The grandparents took the child. She was very beautiful and was kept tabu. Her husband should be either a king or a male kupua of very high birth. When she had grown up she heard noises below her woodland home several times, and she was very curious. She was told, "That comes from the surf-riding."

Hiilei wanted to go down and see. The grandmother said, "Do not go, for it would mean your death." Once more came the noise, and she was told it was "spear-throwing." The girl wanted to know how that was done. The grandparents warned her that there was great danger, saying: "The path is full of trouble. Dragons he beside the way. Ku-aha-ilo, the mo-o [dragon], is travelling through the sky, the clouds, the earth, and the forest. His tongue is thrusting every way to find food. He is almost starved, and now plans to assume his human form and come to Nuu-mea-lani, seeking to find some one for food. You should not go down to the beach of Honua-lewa [the field of sports]."

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But Hiilei was very persistent, so the grandmother at last gave permission, saying: "I will let you go, but here are my commands. You are quite determined to go down, but listen to me. Ku-aha-ilo is very hungry, and is seeking food these days. When you go down to the grove of kukui-trees, there Ku-aha-ilo will await you and you will be afraid that he will catch you. Do not be afraid. Pass that place bravely. Go on the lower side--the valley-side--and you cannot be touched. When that one sees you he will change into his god-body and stand as a mo-o. Do not show that you are afraid. He cannot touch you unless you are afraid and flee. Keep your fear inside and give 'Aloha' and say, 'You are a strangely beautiful one.' The dragon will think you are not afraid. Then that mo-o will take another body. He will become a great caterpillar. Caterpillars will surround you. You must give 'Aloha' and praise. Thus you must do with all the mysterious bodies of Ku-aha-ilo without showing any fear. Then Ku-aha-ilo will become a man and will be your husband."

So the girl went down, dressed gorgeously by the grandmother in a skirt of rainbow colors, flowers of abundant perfumes--nothing about her at fault.

She came to the kukui grove and looked all around, seeing nothing, but passing further along

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I am Lei-makani, the child of Haina-kolo,
The sacred woman of Waipio's precipices;
My mother is living among the ripe balas;[1]

[1. Pandanus adoratissimus.]

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For us was the fruit of the uhi;
I was found by the fisherman;
I am the child of the pali hula-anu;
I was cared for by one of my family
Inland at Opaeloa;
They gave me the name Lopa-iki-hele-wale
[Little lazy fellow having nothing];
But I am Lei-makani--you shall hear it."

His heart was heavy with longing for his mother, and the gods of the wind, the wind brothers, took his plaintive love-chant to the ears of Haina-kolo, who had wandered in her insanity, but was now free from her craze and had become herself. She followed that voice over the precipices and valleys to the top of a precipice. Standing there and looking down she saw her child and grandchild below, and she chanted:

Thy voice I have heard
Softly echoed by the pali,
Wailing against the pali;
Thy voice, my child beloved;
My child, indeed;
My child, when the cloud hung over
And the rainbow light was above us,
That day when we floated together
When the sea was breaking my heart;
My child of the cape of Ka-ia,
When the sun was hanging above us.
Where have I been?
Tell Ke-au-nini-ula-o-ka-lani;
I was in the midst of the sea
With the child of our love;
My child, my little child,
Where are you?
Oh, come back!"

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Then she went down the precipice and met her son holding his child in his arms., and wailed:

My lord from the fogs of the inland,

From the precipices fighting the wind,
Striking down along the ridges;
My child, with the voice of a bird,
Echoed by the precipice of Pakohi,
Shaking and dancing on inaccessible places,
Laughing out on the broken waters
Where we were floating in danger;
There I loved dearly your voice Fighting with waves
While the fierce storm was above us
Seen by your many gods
Who dwell in the shining sky--
Auwe for us both!"

They waited a little while, until the time when Lono-kai became strong again. Then they went up to the village.

Haina-kolo had run into the forest, her wet pa-u torn off, no clothing left. Her long hair was her cloak, clothing her from head to foot. She wandered until cold, then dressed herself with leaves. As her right senses returned she made warm garments of leaves and ate fruits of the forest. When they came to the village they met the people who knew Haina-kolo. She dwelt there until Lono-kai grew up. He and his father looked like twins, having great resemblance, people told them, to Ke-au-nini. The boy asked, "Where is my grandfather, Ke-au-nini?" Lei-makani said: "I never saw your grandfather. He was very tabu and sacred. He killed his own

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father, Ku-aha-ilo, god of the heavens. I know by my mana [spirit power] that he is with the daughters of Milu." The boy said: "I must go and find him. I will go in my spirit body, leaving this human body. You must not forbid the journey." Ke-au-kai, the priest, said: "You cannot find him unless you learn what to do before you go. Those chiefs of Milu have many sports and games. I tell you these things must be learned before you go into that land. If you are able to win against the spirits of that place you can get your grandfather."

All the chiefs aided the boy to acquire skill in all sports. They went to the fields of Paaohau. Nuanua, the most skilful teacher of hula, taught him to dance. The highest chiefs and chiefesses went with him to help, taking their retinues with them. Lei-makani said: "The knowledge of sports is the means by which you will catch your grandfather. Now be careful. Do not be stingy with food. Give to others and take care of the people."

They went up in a great company, and Haina-kolo wondered at the beauty of the boy, and asked why they were travelling. Lono-kai told them the reason for his journey and desire to see the field of sports.

Nuanua, the hula teacher, sent his assistants to get all kinds of leaves and flowers used in the

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hula, then sent for a black pig to be used as an omen. If it ran to Lono-kai, he would become a good dancer; if not, he would fail. The pig went to him. The priest offered this prayer:

"Laka is living where the forest leaves are trembling,
The ghost-god of dancers above and below,
From the boundary of the North to the place most southern:
O Laka, your altar is covered with leaves,
The dancing leaves of the ieie vine;
This offering of leaves is the labor of the gods,
The gods of :your family, Pele and Hiiaka;
The women living in warm winds come here for the toil,
And this labor of ours is learning your dance.
Tabu laid down; tabu lifted. Amama ua noa [we are through]!"

The priest lifted his eyes, and the pig was seen lying at the foot of the boy. Then he commenced teaching the boy the kilu and the first dance. They were thirty days learning the dances, and the boy learned all those his teachers knew.

Then they went around Hawaii, studying the dances. He was told to go back and get all the new ideas and seek the gods to learn their newest dance, for theirs differed from those of his teachers. He was to seek this knowledge in dreams. Lei-makani said: "Your teachers have shown you the slow way; if that is all you know, you will win fame, but not victory. You must learn from the gods." Lono-kai again went to Hamakua with his companions and learned how to play konane, the favorite game of Ke-au-nini. The teacher said, "I have taught you all I know

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inside and outside, as I would not teach the other young chiefs." The boy said to him, "There is one thing more,--give offerings to the gods that they may teach us in our dreams newer and better ways."

So they waited quietly, offering sacrifices. The priests told him to set apart a pig while he made a prayer. If the pig died during the prayer, he would not forget anything learned. The boy laid his right hand on the pig and began to pray:

"Here is a pig, an offering to the gods.
O Lono in the Under-world, Lono in the sky:
O Kane, who makes not-to-be-broken laws,
Kane in the darkness, Kane in the hot wind,
Kane of the generations, Kane of the thunder,
Kane in the whirlwind and the storm:
Here is labor--labor of the gods.
My body is alive for you!
Filled up is the Nuu-pule.
My prayer is for those you hold dear
O Laka, come with knowledge and magic power!

Laka, dancing in the moving forest leaves
Of the mountain ridges and the valleys,
Return and bestow the knowledge
Of Pele and Hiiaka, the guardians of the wind,
Knowing the multitude of the gods of the night,
Knowing Aukele-nui-aku in the Under-world.
O people of the night,
Here is the pig, the offering!
Come with knowledge, magic power, and safety.
Amama ua noa."

Then the boy lifted his hand and the pig lay silent in death. Then came thunder shaking the earth, and lightning flashing in flames, and a storm breaking in red rain. Mists came and the shadows

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of the thousands of gods of Ke-au-nini fell upon the boy. The teachers and friends sat in perfect silence for a long time. The storm was beating outside, and the boy was overcome with weariness and wondered at the silence of his friends.

Rainbow colors were about him, and the people were awed by their fears and sat still until evening came. Then the teacher asked the boy if he saw what had been done in the darkness resting over him, and if he could explain to them. The boy said, "I do not understand you; perhaps my teacher can explain."

Nuanua said: "I am growing old and have never seen such things above any one learning the dance. You have come to me modestly, like one of the common people, when I should have gone to you, and now the gods show your worth and power and their favor."

Then he took a piece of wood from the hula altar which was covered with leaves and flowers, and, putting it in a cup of awa, shook it, and looked, and said to the boy: "This is the best I can do for you. Now the gods will take you in their care." Then he poured awa into cups, passing them to all the people as he chanted incantations, all the company clapping their hands. Then they drank. But the boy's cup was drunk by the eepas of Po (gnomes of the

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night). So the company feasted and the night became calm. Lono-kai that night left his friends with Nuanua and journeyed on. He waited some days and then told Lei-makani he thought he was ready. He said: "Yes, I have heard about your success, but I will see what you can do. We will wait another ten days before you go." Then for two days all the people of Waipio brought their offerings. They built a great lanai, and feated {*sic*}. Lei-makani told the people that he had called them together to see the wonderful power in the sports of the boy. So the boy stood up and chanted:

"O Kuamu-amu [the little people of the clouds of the sky],

The all thronging in crowds from Kuai-he-lani,
On the shoulders of Moana-liha, divided at the waters,
Divided at the waters of the heavy mist,
And the rain coming from the skies,
And the storm rushing inland.
Broken into mists are the falls of the mountains,--
Mists that bathe the buds of the flowers,
Opening the buds below the precipices.
Arise, O beloved one!"

Ke-au-nini heard this chant, even down in Po, while he was sporting with the eepas of Milu, while his spirit body was with his friend Popo-alaea. He repeated the same chant, and the ghosts all rejoiced and laughed, and Laka leaped to his side and danced before him. They had the same sports as the noted ones on Hawaii. Lono-kai danced in magic power before all the

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people until the time came for him to go along the path of his visions of the night. All omens and signs had been noted and were found to be favorable. One of the old priests told the people to make known their thought about the best path for the young chief, but they were silent. Then Moli-lele, an old priest who had the spirit of the unihipilis resting upon him, said: "I know that there will be many troubles. Cold and fierce winds come over the sea. Low tides come in the morning. The land of Kane-huna-moku rises in the coral surf." He chanted:

"Dead is this chief of ours,
Caught as a bird strikes a fish;
The foam of surf waves rises up,
Smiting and driving below.
No sorcerer of the land is there,
Where the coral reef labors,
And the rock-eating Hina of the far-off sea."

The chiefs began to wail, but lightning was in the eyes of the boy and his face was filled with anger at this word of the old priest. Then another priest arose and said: "O chiefs and people, I have seen the path to the Under-world, and it is not right for this young man to go. His body is human and easily captured by the ghosts. He might be safe if he could get the body of the one he seeks. There are fierce guardians of the path who will make war on whoever comes in the flesh."

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Then Kalei, another priest, said: "I know their world. I saw the stars this morning, and they told me that the path was stopped against this chief by broken coral and the bones of the dead. The tabu-children of Hina are swimming in the sea. I will prove the danger by this awa cup. If the bubbles of the awa poured in go to the right, he can go. If to the left, he must stay." This he did uttering incantations, but bubbles covered all the surface.

Then the priests advised the young chief to stay and eat the fat of the land. Then Hae-hae, the great chief, said, "We have come to point out a path, if we can, and to make quiet and peaceful that way into Po." He instituted new omens, and showed that the young chief would be successful, but he would have many difficulties to overcome.

Lono-kai arose and said: "The words of these chiefs were twisted. I will go after the spirit-body of my grandfather, as I have sworn to do. My word is fast. I will go to the land where my grandfather stays."

The priests who had tried to terrify Lono-kai were his enemies, and would oppose his journey, and he wanted them killed, but Lei-makani would not permit it. Ku also quieted him with patient words, and he ceased from anger and told them he must prepare at once to go.

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Lei-makani had a double canoe made ready, and selected a number of strong men to accompany the young chief. Lono-kai would not have any of these men, but went out early in the morning, took a cup of awa to the temple nearby and chanted his genealogical mele.

Thunder and lightning and heavy wind and rain attended his visit to the temple. He returned to his parents and told them to wait for him thirty days. If a mist was over all the land they might wait and watch ten days more, and if the mist continued, another ten, when he would return with thunder and lightning to meet his friends. But if the voices of the sea were strong at Kumukahi, with mist resting on Opaeloa and rain on Puu-o-ka-polei, then he would be dead.

He took his feather cloak and war weapons from his grandparents, and feather helmet, and went out. He bade his parents farewell, took a coconut-husk canoe and went down to the sea. The waves rose high, pounding the face of the coast precipices. Lei-makani ran down to bring Lono-kai back, but according to the proverb he caught the hand of the chiefess who lives in the land of Nowhere. The boy had disappeared.

Out in the sea Lono-kai was tossing in the high waves, passing all the islands, even to the land Niihau. There he met the great watchman

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of Kuai-he-lani called Honu (the turtle). He came quietly near the head. Honu asked, "Where are you going?" Lono-kai said: "You speak as if you alone had the right to the sea. You are a humpbacked turtle; you shall become a great round stone." Then the turtle began to slap its fins on the sea, raising waves high as precipices. Five times forty he struck the sea with mighty force, looking for the destruction of the chief as the waves passed over him. But Lono-kai waited until the turtle became tired, thinking the chief dead. As the waters became calm the chief raised his club and struck the right flapper of the turtle, destroying its power.

Then the left fin beat the sea into foam, but Lono-kai waited and broke that fin also; then he broke the back of the turtle into little pieces and went on his way. Soon the ocean grew fierce

again. Huge waves came, and whirlwinds. He saw something red in the great sea--a kupua of the ocean. The name of this enemy was Ea, a great red turtle, who crawled out and asked where he was going. Lono-kai said: "What right have you to question me? Have I questioned your right to go on the sea?"

Ea said: "This is not your place. I will kill you. You shall be food for me to eat. When you are dead I will go and kill the watchman who let you come into this tabu-sea of my chief."

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"Who is your chief?" asked Lono-kai. Ea replied: "Hina-kekai [the calabash for boiling water], the daughter of Pii-moi. Now I will kill you."

Then Ea began to strike the water with his right fin, throwing the water up on all sides in mighty waves, expecting to overthrow Lono-kai and his boat. When he rested to see the result of this battle his fin was on the surface, and the chief struck it and broke it.

Then in another fight, when head and fin were lifted to destroy the boat, Lono-kai struck the neck and broke it, so killing his enemy.

Now he thought all his troubles were over and he could go safely on his way.

But soon there lay before him a new enemy, floating on the sea, a very long thing, like a long stick. He approached and saw that it was like the fin of a shark, but as he came nearer he observed the smooth skin of a long eel. Lifting its head and looking right at him, the eel said: "O, proud man, you are here where you have no business to be. I will mix you with my awa and eat you now." Then he struck at Lono-kai with his tail and hit his eyes and knocked him down, then, thinking Lono-kai was dead, he turned his head to the boat to catch the body, but Lono-kai, leaping up on the head of the eel, holding his boat with one hand and his club with the other, struck the head with the magic club,

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breaking the bones. Fire came out of the broken head, the eel falling into pieces which became islands of fire in the midst of which appeared a very beautiful woman who asked him whence he came, and why.

He told her he was from Hawaii and was going to Kuai-he-lani and would kill her, for he thought she was a mo-o, or dragon-woman. He said, "You tried to kill me, O woman, and now you must stay and become the fire oven of the ocean." He asked her name. She said to him: "This kupua was Waka, the dragon of the rough head, and I have escaped from his body. I want you now for my husband, and I will accompany you on your journey."

Lono-kai told her, "This would not be right, but when I return, if I come this way, you shall be mine." She said, "My ruler will kill me, for 1 have been sent to guard this place." Lono-kai asked, "Who is your ruler?" "Hina-kekai, she will kill me. You belong to the Ku-aha-ilo family, which is a very strong family. Therefore we have been watching for you for our chiefess."

Lono-kai told her to go to his land and wait for him. He would be her husband. She must wait there without fault until his return. Then he went away. Waka did not know whence this chief came, so she went to Oahu and landed at Laiewai. There she awaited her husband.

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Lono-kai went on to the land of Kuai-he-lani, where he landed and hid his boat among the vines on the beach. He went to the temple where the body of his grandfather lay, clean and beautiful in death. He could not see any door or break in the body for the escape of the spirit.

Then he struck the earth with his magic war-club until a great hole opened. He looked down and saw a large house and many people moving around below. He knew that the spirit of his grandfather was there. He went down and looked about, but the people had disappeared. The remains of a great feast were there. He stood at the door looking in, when two men appeared and welcomed him with an "Aloha," and told him he must have come from the land above, for there was no man like him in that place. They advised him to make his path back into that land from whence he had come, for if the king of the Under-world saw him he would be killed. Lono-kai asked, "Who is your king?" They told him, "Milu." "What does he do?" "Our king dances for Popo-alaea and Ke-au-nini." Lono-kai went with the men to see the sports. They tried to persuade him not to go, but he was very obstinate and asked them to hide him. They said, "If we do this and you are discovered we shall be destroyed."

He told them the reason of his coming and

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asked their help, and said when he had his grandfather they could follow him into the Upper-world. They went to a house which was large and beautiful. They entered and saw the chiefs playing kilu. After a long time Lono-kai began to make his presence known. Popo-alaea was winning. Then Ke-au-nini chanted:

"The multitude of those below give greeting
To the friends of the inland forest of Puna;
We praise the restfulness of our home;
The leaves and divine flowers of that place."

Lono-kai chanted the same words as an echo of Ke-au-nini. Silence fell on the group, and Milu cried out: "Who is the disturber of our sport? We must find him and kill him." They began the search, but could not find any one and at last resumed their games. Popo-alaea chanted:

"I welcome back my friend,
The great shadow of Waimea,
Where stands the milo-tree[1] in the gentle breeze,
And the ohia-tree. You know the place."

Ke-au-nini sang the same chant. Then Lono-kai echoed it very softly and sweetly. All said this last voice was the best. Milu again caused a search to be made, but found nothing. The two

men hid Lono-kai by a post of the house.

The group returned to the sports. Soon Milu changed the game to hula. Ke-au-nini stood up to dance and began his chant:

[1. Thespesia populnea.]

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"Aloha to our houses without friends
The path goes inland to Papalakamo;
Come now and enter!
Outside is the trouble, the storm,
And there you meet the cold."

The people around were striking the spirit drums. Then Lono-kai chanted:

Established is the boner of Ke-au-nini
(Noteworthy is the name),
Lifted up to the high heaven;
I am the child of Lei-makani,
I am Lono from the sunrise place, Hae-o-hae:
I have come after thee, my father;
We must return. Where are you?"

Ke-au-nini could not stand up to dance when he heard the voice of his grandchild, for his love overpowered him. He looked up and saw the form of the young chief leaping into the place prepared for the hula and standing there before the chief. The people rose up in great confusion. Lono-kai caught the spirit of Ke-au-nini and put it in a coconut-shell. He leaped past the ghosts, and ran very swiftly out of the house.

Some of the people saw him lay hands on Ke-au-nini, and cried out: "Oh, the husband of our chiefess! Oh, the husband of our chiefess! He has taken the husband of our chiefess!" But they did not see Lono-kai go out. The two men who had aided Lono-kai went out as soon as he leaped into the hula place, They hurried along the path toward freedom, but Lono-kai soon

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overtook them. Milu called to his people to hasten and capture and kill the one who had stolen Ke-au-nini. They saw the two men with Lono-kai, and pursued rapidly, but could not overtake them. The fugitives were very near the opening to the world above. When Lono-kai saw that the pursuers were almost upon him he whirled his magic war-club and struck the ground, making a great hole into which the spirits fell one over the other.

Lono-kai and the two watchmen went up the cave opening by which he had gone down into the land of Milu. Dawn was breaking as they ran into the temple at Kuai-he-lani, where the body of Ke-au-nini was lying. Lono-kai pushed the spirit into the hollow of the foot and held the foot fast, shaking it until the spirit had gone to the very ends of the body and life had

returned.

When Ke-au-nini was fully restored, Lono-kai asked him if he could help restore to their bodies the two spirits who had aided him in escaping. Ke-au-nini evidently did not remember anything of his life in the Under-world, for he did not know these ghosts and thought he had been asleep from the time he entered the temple and fell down in weariness. Lono-kai thought they could not find the bodies, but Ke-au-nini put the ghosts in coconuts and carried them up into the forest to one of his ancestors who knew

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the bodies from which these ghosts had come. Thus they were restored and had a long and happy life in their former home.

Lono-kai told his grandfather they must return to Hawaii to meet all the friends.

For thirty days mists covered Hawaii and there was thunder and lightning and earthquakes. Then Lono-kai said to Ke-au-nini: "To-morrow we must go to Hawaii. We must have the appropriate ceremonies for cleansing and taking food." Ke-au-nini said: "Yes, I have been a long time in the adopted land of Milu, and my eyes are dimmed and my thought is dazed with the dance of the restless spirits of the night. We must wait until I have performed all the cleansing ceremonies, made offerings and incantations. Prayers must be said for my return to life. Then we will go."

They attended to all the temple rites, and the marks of death were washed away. The body was cleansed, the eyes made clear, so strength and joy returned into the body. Then Ke-au-nini said: "I am ready. I see a multitude of birds circling around Kaula. There is evil toward Hawaii."

They again went into the temple and slept until very early the next morning. Then they took their coconut-husk canoes, each holding his own in his hand, and went down to the edge

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of the sea and stood there, each pointing the nose of his boat toward Waipio.

None of the people awoke until they landed. They pulled the boats upon the beach and went to their temple. As they came to the door of the temple, drums beat like rolling thunder. Then the sun arose, the mists all vanished from Hawaii. The people awoke and understood that their chiefs had returned. They ran out of their houses shouting and rejoicing. Olopana commanded the chiefs and the people to prepare all kinds of sweet food and gifts and things for a very great luau. When this was done they feasted sixty days and returned to their homes.

Lei-makani became the ruler of Hawaii. Lono-kai-o-lohia was honored by his father. All of the chiefs in that generation were noted throughout the islands.

she saw a mist rising. A strong wind was coming. The sun was hot in the sky, making her cheeks red like lehua flowers. She went up some high places looking down on the sea. Then she heard footsteps behind her. She looked back and saw a strange body following. She became afraid and trembled, but she remembered the words of her grandmother, and turned and said, "Aloha," and the strange thing went away. She went on and again heard a noise and looked back. A whirlwind was coming swiftly after her. Then there was thunder and lightning.

Hiilei said: "Aloha. Why do you try to make me afraid? Come in your right body, for I know that you are a real man."

Everything passed away. She went on again, but after a few steps she felt an earthquake. Afraid, she sat down. She saw a great thing rising like a cloud twisting and shutting out the sun, moving and writhing--a great white piece of earth in front of a whirlwind.

She was terribly frightened and fell flat on the ground as if dead. Then she heard the spirit of her grandmother calling to her to send away her fear, saying: "This is the one of whom I told you. Don't be afraid." She looked at the cloud, and the white thing became omaomao (green). Resolutely she stood up, shook her rainbow skirt and flowers. The perfumes were scattered

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in the air and she started on. Then the dragons, a multitude, surrounded her, climbing upon her to throw her down. Her skin was creeping, but she remembered her grandmother and said: "Alas, O most beautiful ones, this is the first time I have ever seen you. If my grandmother were here we would take you back to our home and entertain you, and you should be my playmates. But I cannot return, so I must say 'Farewell.'"

Then the dragons disappeared and the caterpillars came into view after she had gone on a little way. The caterpillars' eyes were protruding as they rose up and came against her, but she said, "Aloha."

Then she saw another form of Ku-aha-ilo--a stream of blood flowing like running water. She was more frightened than at any other time, and cried to her grandfather: "E Kahuli, I am afraid! Save my life, O my grandfather!" He did not know she had gone down. He told his wife that he saw Ku-aha-ilo surrounding someone on the path. He went into his temple and prayed:

"Born is the night,
Born is the morning,
Born is the thunder,
Born is the lightning,
Born is the heavy rain,
Born is the rain which calls us;
The clouds of the sky gather."

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It was said that there was a beautiful chiefess of Molokai who wanted to find a young chief of Hawaii for her husband, so she sent her kahu, or guardian, and servants to make the journey while she went back to her sleeping-place and dreamed of a very fine young chief shining like

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the sun and surrounded by all the colors of the rainbow. Then she awoke and found no one, but she loved that spirit-body which she had seen in her dreams, so she arose and went down to the beach and told her guardian to make haste and reach Hawaii that day.

When the kahu heard her call, he put forth all his power and uttered the proper incantations. He sped through the waters like a skimming bird, passed the great precipices near Waipio, and soon after dawn landed on the beautiful beach.

The people had not yet come from their homes for the work of the day. He went up to the village and came near the house of Lei-makani. A watchman asked where he was from and the purpose of his journey. He said: "I am a stranger from Molokai, a messenger from my chiefess, who seeks a husband of high rank equal to her own. She has no one worthy to be her husband."

The Waipio chief said: "We have a splendid young chief, but there is no one his equal in rank and beauty. You could not ask for him."

Then Lei-makani heard the noise and came out and asked about this conversation. His watchman told him that this man was from Molokai.

Lei-makani asked the man to approach. The Molokai chief thought that Lei-makani was the

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handsomest man he had ever seen. Ke-au-kai came out of the temple and looked upon the stranger and asked why he had come.

When he learned that the man sought a husband for his chiefess, he advised him to return lest he should meet death at the hands of the watchman, but the man would not go away.

After a time the chiefs of Waipio came before Lei-makani. The Molokai chief explained his errand, and praised his chiefess, and said that he was willing to be killed and cooked in an oven if she were not as beautiful and of as high rank as he had told them. Lono-kai at that moment entered the assembly, and the stranger cried out: "This man is the husband for my chiefess. Her tabu rank is the same as the tabu rank of this fine young chief. No others in all the islands are like these two. It would be glorious for them to meet." Lono-kai said, "You return at once and make preparation, and I will come in the evening."

The kahu returned to Molokai, but the chiefess saw him coming back alone and became very angry, her eyes flashing with wrath because he had not brought the young chief with him. She screamed out, "Where is the value of your journey, if you return without my husband?"

"Wait a little," the guardian said gently, "until you hear about what I have seen upon {p. 223} Hawaii. I have found the one you wanted. We must get ready to meet your husband, for the young chief is coming here this evening. When you meet, the love of each of you will be great toward the other."

She ordered all Molokai to prepare for a great feast commencing that evening. Messengers ran swiftly, people and chiefs hastened their labors, and by evening vast quantities of food had been prepared.

Lono-kai took his coconut-husk boat and came over the sea like a bird skimming the water.

As the sun sank and the evening shadows fell, the two young people met and delighted in each other's beauty. Then they were married in the midst of all the people of Molokai.

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Next: XVIII. The Bride From the Under-world

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Then Kahuli twisted his kapa clothes full of lightning and threw them into the sky. A fierce and heavy rain began to fall. Streams of water rushed toward the place where Hiilei stood fighting with that stream of blood in which the dragon was floating. The blood was all washed away and the dragon became powerless.

Ku-aha-ilo saw that he had failed in all these attempts to terrify Hiilei. His eyes flashed and he opened his mouth. His tongue was thrusting viciously from side to side. His red mouth was like the pit of Pele. His teeth were gnashing, his tail lashing.

Hiilei stood almost paralyzed by fear, but remembered her grandmother. She felt that death was near when she faced this awful body of Ku-aha-ilo. But she hid her fear and called a welcome to this dragon. Then the dragon fell into pieces, which all became nothing. The fragments flew in all directions.

While Hiilei was watching this, all the evil disappeared and a handsome man stood before her. Hiilei asked him gently, "Who are you, and from what place do you come?" He said, "I am a man of this place." "No," said Hiilei, "you are not of this land. My grandparents and I are the only ones. This is our land. From what place do you come?" He replied: "I am truly from the land above the earth, and I have

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come to find a wife for myself. Perhaps you will be my wife." She said that she did not want a husband at that time. She wanted to go down to the sea.

He persuaded her to marry him and then go down and tell her brothers that she had married Ku-aha-ilo. If a boy was born he must be called Ke-au-nini-ula-o-ka-lani (The red, restful current of the heavens). This would be their only child. He gave her signs for the boy, saying, "When the boy says to you, 'Where is my father?' you can tell him, 'Here is the stick or club Kaaona and this malo or girdle Ku-ke-anuenue.' He must take these things and start out to find me." He slowly disappeared, leaving Hiilei alone. She went down to the sea. The people saw her coming, a very beautiful woman, and they shouted a glad welcome.

She went out surf-riding, sported awhile, and then her grandfather came and took her home. After a time came the signs of the birth of a chief. Her son was born and named Ke-au-nini. This was in the land Kuai-he-lani. Kahuli almost turned over. The land was shaken and tossed. This was one of the divine lands from which the ancestors of the Hawaiians came. Pii-moi, a god of the sun, asked Akoa-koa, the coral, "What is the matter with the land?" Akoa-koa replied , "There is a kupua--a being with divine powers--

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being born, with the gifts of Ku-aha-ilo." Pii-moi was said to be below Papaku-lolo, taking care of the foundation of the earth. The brothers were in their temple. Ke-au-kai heard the signs in the leaves and knew that his sister had a child, and proposed to his brother to go over and get the child. The mother had left it on a pile of sugar-cane leaves. They met their sister and asked for the child. Then they took it, wrapped it in a soft kapa and went back to the temple.

The temple drum sounded as they came in, beaten by invisible hands.

The boy grew up. The mother after a time wanted to see the child, and went to the temple. She had to wait a little, then the boy came out and said he would soon come to her. She rejoiced to see such a beautiful boy as her Ke-au-nini-ula-o-ka-lani. They talked and rejoiced in their mutual affection, An uncle came and sent her away for a time. The boy returned to the temple, and his uncle told him he could soon go to be with his mother. Then came an evil night and the beating of the spirit drum. A mist covered the land. There was wailing among the menehunes (fairy folk). Ke-au-nini went away covered by the mist, and no one saw him go.

He came to his grandfather's house, saw an old man sleeping and a war-club by the door. He took this club and lifted it to strike the old man,

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but the old man caught the club. The boy dropped it and tried to catch the old man. The old man held him and asked who he was and to what family he belonged. The boy said: "I belong to Kahuli and Kakela, to Nakula-uka and Nakula-kai. I am the son of Ku-aha-ilo and Hiilei. I have been brought up by Ke-au-miki and Ke-au-kai. I seek my mother."

The old man arose, took his drum and beat it. Hiilei and her mother came out to meet the boy. They put sacrifices in their temple for him and chanted to their ancestor-gods:

"O Keke-hoa lani, dwell here;
Here are wind and rain."

By and by Ke-au-nini asked his mother, "Where is my father?" She told him: "You have no father in the lands of the earth. He belongs to the atmosphere above. You cannot go to find him. He never told me the path-way to his home. You had better stay with me." He replied: "No I cannot stay here. I must go to find my father." He was very earnest in his purpose.

His mother said: "If you make a mistake, your father will kill you and then eat you and take all your lands. He will destroy the forests and the food plants, and all will be devoured by your father. His kingdom is tabu. If you go, take great care of the gifts, for with these things you

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succeed, but without them you die." She showed him the war-club and the rainbow-girdle, and gave them into his care. The boy took the gifts, kissed his mother, went outside and looked up into the sky.

He saw wonderful things. A long object passed before him, part of which was on the earth, but the top was lost in the clouds. This was Niu-loa-hiki, one of the ancestor-gods of the night. This was a very tall cocoanut-tree, from which the bark of coconuts fell in the shape of boats. He took one of these boats in his hands, saying, "How can I ride in this small canoe? "

He went down to the sea, put the bark boat in the water, got in and sailed away until the land

of Nuu-mea-lani was lost. His uncle, Ke-au-kai, saw him going away, and prayed to the aumakuas (ancestral ghost-gods) to guard the boy. The boy heard the soft voice of the far-off surf, and as he listened he saw a girl floating in the surf. He turned his boat and joined her. She told him to go back, or he would be killed. She was Moho-nana, the first-born child of Ku-aha-ilo.

When she learned that this was her half-brother, she told him that her father was sleeping. If he awoke, the boy would be killed.

The boy went to the shore of this strange land. Ku-aha-ilo saw him coming, and breathed out

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the wind of his home against the boy. It was like a black whirlwind rushing to the sea.

The boy went on toward his father's tabu place, up to Kalewa, in the face of the storm. He saw the tail of Ku-aha-ilo sweep around against him to kill him. He began his chants and incantations and struck his war-club on the ground. Lava came out and fire was burning all around him. He could not strike the tail, nor could the tail strike him. Ku-aha-ilo sent many other enemies, but the war-club turned them aside. The earth was shaking, almost turning upside down as it was struck by the war-club. Great openings let lava fires out. Ku-aha-ilo came out of his cave to fight. His mouth was open, his tongue outstretching, his eyes glaring, but the boy was not afraid. He took his club, whirled it in his hand, thinking his father would see it, but his father did not see it. The boy leaped almost inside the mouth and struck with the club up and down, every stroke making an opening for fire.

The father tried to shut his mouth, but the boy leaped to one side and struck the father's head. The blow glanced aside and made a great hole in the earth, which let out fire. The dragon body disappeared and came back in another form, as a torrent of blood. Ke-au-nini thrust it aside.

Then a handsome man stood before him with

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wild eyes, demanding who he was. Ku-aha-ilo had forgotten his son, and the miraculous war-club which he had given to Hiilei, so he began to fight with his hands. Ke-au-nini laid his club down. The father was near the end of his strength, and said, "Let our anger cease, that we may know each other." The boy was very angry and said: "You have treated me cruelly, when I only came to see you and to love you. You would have taken my young life for sacrifice. Now you tell me you belong to the temple of my ancestors in Nuu-mea-lani." Then he caught his father and lifted him up. He tossed him, dizzy and worn out, into the air, and catching the body broke it over his knee. Ku-aha-ilo had killed and eaten all his people, so that no one was left in his land. The boy's sister saw the battle and went away to Ka-lewa-lani (the divine faraway cloud-land).

Ke-au-nini returned on his ocean journey to Nuu-mea-lani. The uncle saw a mist covering the

sea and saw the sign of a chief in it, and knew that the boy was not dead, but had killed Ku-aha-ilo. The boy came and greeted them and told the story. He remained some time in the temple and dreamed of a beautiful woman.

The brothers talked about the power of Ke-au-nini who had killed his father, a man without parents, part god and part man. They thought

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he would now kill them. Ke-au-nini became pale and thin and sick, desiring the woman of his dream. Finally he told the brothers to find that woman or he would kill them.

Ke-au-kai told him that he would consult the gods. Then he made a red boat with a red mast and a red sail and told Ke-au-miki to go after Hiilei, their sister.

Hiilei came down to stay with her son while the brothers went away to find the girl. Ke-au-kai (Broad sea-current) said to Ke-au-miki (Chopped-up current): "You sit in front, I behind. Let this be our law. You must not turn back to look at me. You must not speak to me. I must not speak to you, or watch you."

Ke-au-miki went to his place in the boat. The other stood with one foot in the boat and one on the land. He told the boy they would go. If they found a proper girl they would return; if not, they would not come back. They pushed the boat far out to sea by one paddle-stroke. Another stroke and land was out of sight. Swiftly leaped the boat over the ocean.

They saw birds on the island Kaula. One bird flew up. Heavy winds almost upset the boat and filled it with water up to their chins. They caught the paddles, bailing-cups, and loose boards for seats, and held them safe.

The wind increased like a cyclone over them.

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Thus in the storm they floated on the sea. Ke-au-nini by his sorcery saw the swamped canoe. He ran and told his mother. She sent him to the temple to utter incantations:

"O wind, wini-wini [sharp-pointed];
O wind full of stinging points;
O wind rising at Vavau,
At Hii-ka-lani;
stamped upon, trodden upon by the wind.
Niihau is the island;
Ka-pali-kala-hale is the chief."

This chant of Ke-au-nini reached Ke-au-kai, and the wind laid aside its anger. Its strength was made captive and the sea became calm.

The boat came to the surface, and they bailed it out and took their places. Ke-au-kai said to

his brother: "What a wonderful one is that boy of ours! We must go to Niihau." They saw birds, met a boat and fisherman, and found Niihau. When the Niihau people saw them coming on a wonderful surf wave, they shouted about the arrival of the strangers. The chief Ka-pali-kala-hale came down as the surf swept the boat inland. He took the visitors to his house and gave gifts of food, kapas, and many other things. Then they went on their way. When they were between Niihau and Kauai, the wind drove the boat back. A whirlwind threw water into the boat, swamping it. It was sinking and all the goods were floating away.

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Ke-au-nini again saw the signs of trouble and chanted:

"The wind of Kauai comes; it touches; it strikes;
Rising, whirling; boat filled with water;
The boat slipping down in the sea;
The outrigger sticks in the sand.
Kauai is the island;
Ka-pali-o-ka-la-lau is chief."

The sea became calm. The boat was righted and the floating goods were put in. They met canoes and went on a mighty surf wave up the sands of the beach.

The people shouted, "Aloha!" The chiefess of that part of Kauai was surf-riding and heard the people shouting welcome, so she came to land and found the visitors sitting on the sand, resting. She took them to the royal home. All the people of Kauai came together to meet the strangers, making many presents.

The brothers found no maids sufficiently perfect, so they crossed over to Oahu, meeting other trials. At last they went to Hawaii to the place where Haina-kolo lived, a chiefess and a kua (goddess).

This was above Kawaihae. They went to Kohala, seeking the dream-land of Ke-au-nini, and then around to Waipio Valley. There they saw a rainbow resting over the home of a tabu chief, Ka-lua-hine. They landed near the door of the Under-world. This entrance is through a

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cave under water. There they saw the shadow of Milu, the ruler of the dead. Milu's people called out, "Here are men breaking the tabu of the chief." Olopana, a very high chief, heard the shouts while he was in the temple in the valley. He saw the visitors chased by the people, running here and there. Haina-kolo, his sister, was tabu. Watchmen were on the outside of her house. They also saw the two men and the people pursuing, and told Haina-kolo, and she ordered one of the watchmen to go out and say to the strangers, "Oh, run swiftly; run, run, and come inside this temple!" They heard and ran in. The people stopped on the outside of the wall around the house. this was a tabu drum place, and not a temple of safety.

Olopana was in the heiau (temple) Pakaa-lana. Haina-kolo asked who they were. They said

they were from Hawaii. She said, "No, you have come from the sea." Hoo-lei-palaoa, one of her watchmen, called, and men came and caught the two strangers, taking them to Olopana, who was very angry because they had come into the temple of his sister. So he ordered his men to take them at once and carry them to a prison house to die on the morrow. He said if the prisoners escaped, the watchmen should die and their bodies be burned in the fire. Toward morning the two prisoners talked together and

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uttered incantations. Ke-au-nini saw by the signs that they were in some trouble and chanted in the ears of the watchmen: "They shall not die. They shall not die."

The watchmen reported to Olopana what they had heard, then returned to watch. The moon was rising and the two prisoners were talking. Ke-au-kai told his brother to look at the moon, saying: "This means life. The cloud passes, morning comes." Ka-au-kai prayed and chanted. The watchmen again reported to Olopana, giving the words of the chant. In this chant the family names were given. Olopana said: "These are the names of my mother's people. My mother is Hina. Her sister is Hiilei. Her brothers are Ke-au-kai and Ke-au-miki. They were all living at Kuai-he-lani. Hina and her husband Ku went away to Waipio. There she had her child, Haina-kolo."

Olopana sent messengers for Hina, who was like the rising moon, giving life, and for her husband Ku, who was at Napoopoo, asking them to come and look at these prisoners. They ran swiftly and arrived by daylight. Hina had been troubled all night. Messengers called: "Awake! Listen to the chant of the prisoners, captured yesterday." And they reported the prayers of Ke-au-kai. Hina arose and went to the heiau (temple) and heard the story of her brothers,

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who came also with the warriors. Olopana heard Hina wailing with her brothers, and was afraid that his mother would kill him because he had treated his visitors so badly. The strangers told her they had come to find a wife for Ke-au-nini. They had looked at the beautiful women of all the islands and had found none except the woman at Waipio. Then they told about the anger of the people, the pursuit, and their entrance into the tabu temple.

Hina commanded Olopana to come before them. He took warriors and chiefs and came over to the temple and stood before his parents. Hina pronounced judgment, saying: "This chief shall live because he sent for me. The chiefs and people who pursued shall die and be cooked in the oven in which they thought to place the strangers."

Ku's warriors captured Olopana's men and took them away prisoners, but Olopana was spared and made welcome by his uncle. And they all feasted together for days. Then the brothers prepared to go after Ke-au-nini.

One man who heard the wailing of the brothers and knew of the coming of Hina went to his house, took his wife and children and ran by way of Hilo to Puna-luu. It was said this man

Kentucky Researcher Says he Has Proof of Sasquatch - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

Posted on Apr 17 2015 - 5:03pm by Cryptozoology News

Ky. — A Bigfoot researcher is convinced that what he captured on a trail camera are the actual images of a Bigfoot creature in Kentucky.

Bigfoot Tennessee Picture

Thomas Marcum, a wild land firefighter with over 20 years of research in the paranormal and founder of the Crypto Crew, did not disclose the exact location of the sighting to Cryptozoology News but says that the photo is 100% proof of the existence of the creature.

Marcum, who claims that his father had spotted the creature in that area years ago, produced a 5-minute-long video to explain why he believes this is the real cryptid.

"There was a picture taken before this one. It appears to have been something very close to the camera. The next photo was a little over exposed. Please notice the time stamp, 3:08 a.m., two minutes after the other photo," he said.

The video shows a dark human-like silhouette seemingly hiding behind the trees.

"Please notice the head, the cheek bones, part of the right arm, some of the figure is hiding behind the leaves, notice how muscular that right arm is," Marcum explains about the 2013 picture.

When the researcher compares daylight pictures to the one with "Bigfoot", the hominid shape is not there.

Marcum adds that he has been researching the area and that he was able to find tree "breaks" and "stick formations".

Some people believe that the unproven creature, just like the great apes, could be using natural resources to build a nest or shelter.

And Marcum knows that he is facing a long line of critics and skeptical minds, but he says he is still sure that the animal in the images happens to be a Bigfoot.

"I know the photo itself might not convince anyone, but if you add up the sightings, the tracks I found, the stick structures, the broken limbs and the personal experiences I had while

researching in this area, then it might," he said. "I know it is a Bigfoot. Some are already saying it's fake and and some are saying it's a bear …. well it's not fake and we just don't have 7-foot-tall bears in Kentucky."

3 Comments so far. Feel free to join this conversation.

1. **Marshall Cypress**April 18, 2015 at 6:51 am -

I see nothing in the picture but trees.

2. **Fred**April 18, 2015 at 8:28 am -

"Hey, ya'll, I done went took me a photo in the woods and there's some shadows that look like a drawing of Bigfoot I once saw on that there Internet.
Or it could be a towbacky stain. I don't rightly know."

Somebody get this man a show on the Discovery Channel NOW!

3. **Austin**April 18, 2015 at 2:56 pm -

"Researcher"

AHHHHahahahaha!

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Kenya: Cow 'starts eating sheep' on Nakuru farm - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 23 April 2015

The dairy cow's behaviour may be due to a lack of nutrients

A farmer in Kenya says one of his cows has given up its usual vegetarian diet and started eating sheep.

Charles Mamboleo, who runs a farm in south-western Nakuru County, discovered the cow feeding on a sheep one morning, having apparently gored it to death, the Daily Nation website reports. Fresh food and water couldn't tempt the cow, and another sheep met its end the following day, the report says. "After the first incident, we thought the cow was starving, so we increased the supply of fodder and water, but it still continued chasing after sheep," says Mr Mamboleo.

While cows are herbivores, developing a taste for meat could be a sign of a nutrient deficiency, according to a local agricultural officer. "The dry season, which has just ended, has seen most animals lack minerals found in green grass," Albert Kabugi tells the site. In 2007, a calf in India's West Bengal region was filmed eating chickens. A local vet said he suspected a lack of vital minerals was also to blame in that case, noting that it could happen in "exceptional" circumstances.

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Woman Kicked Out of KFC For Breastfeeding Her 42-Year-Old Son | Most Extreme News

mostextremenews.com

Mississippi – A 76-year-old woman has created controversy yesterday, by breastfeeding her 42-year-old son in the middle of a KFC restaurant. Many customers of the fast food joint would of complained about the incident and prompted Linda Berrety and her son, Michael, to leave the establishment. Both finally got expelled.

This unusual episode has sparked strong reactions on social medias and provoked a huge debate on the limits of breastfeeding in public places, while many customers present at the time of the event seem to have seen a gesture of sexual nature and incest, rather than a gesture of maternal concern.

expelled-from-kfc-for-breastfeeding-her-42-year-old-son

What in God's name was that?" claims Ali Belfouz, a customer who witnessed the whole scene. "I have nothing against breastfeeding, but that was pure nonsense. I felt like if I was watching some fetish type of porno. You have to be insane to breastfeed your child at that age. They should of got arrested for gross indecency rather then getting expelled."

"It's my right as a mother to breastfeed my child," says Mrs. Berrety. "If people don't agree with the way I raise my son, that's their problem. I have raised a great man, beautiful, tall, who still lives and stays with me. I think I've done a great job as a mother and don't appreciate getting insulted and expelled just because I decided to breastfeed my child a little longer than other mothers."

The chances of winning of the 76-year-old woman would be pretty excellent, according to many legal experts. Since 1976, the United States Bill of Rights prevents all discrimination against women breastfeeding in public, that at many occasions, merchants were condemned to pay important fines to women who were asked to stop breastfeeding or expelled for doing so.

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Kim Jong Un, boy genius, also won yacht races at age 9, per new curriculum

By Jenn Gidman
Posted Apr 15, 2015 5:26 PM CDT

(Newser) – Parents outraged by Common Core can at least be glad their kids aren't being schooled in North Korea. The *Telegraph* reports that middle school and high school teachers there have been issued a manual to use while teaching a new subject for 2015: "Kim Jong Un's Revolutionary Activities." The manual contains details of Kim Jong Un's childhood—specifically, the amazing story of how he was driving by age 3, per YTN TV. It also notes that Kim is an awesome artist, pens musical scores, and was acing yachting races before puberty. "At the age of 9, Kim Jong Un raced the chief executive of a foreign yacht company who was visiting North Korea at the time," one of the passages reportedly reads (he won that race "despite the odds," per

This inherent ability to win at life apparently runs in the family: The *Telegraph* brings up old claims that were made about Kim's father. Kim Jong Il supposedly walked at 3 weeks of age, talked at 8 weeks, wrote six operas, and penned 1,500 books during his three-year college tenure (take that, L. Ron Hubbard). But a professor at Tokyo's Waseda University thinks the new curriculum is less about genealogical bragging rights and more about panicked propaganda. "Not many people in the North have respect for Mr. Kim, so children are being taught how great and powerful he is," Toshimitsu Shigemura tells the *Telegraph*. "The children believe it, of course, but the teachers have no choice but to believe it." (In other just-like-dad news, Kim Jong Un is reportedly recruiting new talent to what has become known as the "pleasure squad.")

In this July 27, 2013, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un waves during a mass military parade celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice in Pyongyang, North Korea.

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Form P-206 150M 8-2-21

IMPERIAL PALACE

INVISIBLE EMPIRE

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

(Incorporated)

AMLIE OF THE
IMPERIAL WIZARD

Dear Sir:

We have been requested by one of your personal friends to get in touch with you, and inform you of this organization. And, in view of this request, we are sending you this form. When we receive this with all the questions below properly answered by you and if same is satisfactory we will impart to you the information your friend desires you to have. Without delay you will fill in, sign and return. You will find stamped envelope enclosed for this purpose.

Very truly yours,
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN,

By_____

1. Is the motive prompting your inquiry serious? .....
2. What is your age? .....
3. What is your occupation? .....
4. Where were you born? .....
5. How long have you resided in your present locality? .....
6. Are you married, single or widower? .....
7. Were your parents born in the United States of America? .....
8. Are you a gentile or jew? .....
9. Are you of the white race or of a colored race? .....
10. What educational advantages have you? .....
11. Color of eyes? ..... Hair? ..... Weight? ..... Height? .....
12. Do you believe in the principles of a PURE Americanism? .....
13. Do you believe in White Supremacy? .....
14. What is your politics? .....
15. What is your religious faith? .....
16. Of what church are you a member (if any) .....
17. Of what religious faith are your parents? .....
18. What secret, fraternal orders are you a member of (if any)? .....
19. Do you honestly believe in the practice of REAL fraternity? .....
20. Do you owe ANY KIND of allegiance to any foreign nation, government, institution, sect, people, ruler or person? .....

I most solemnly assert and affirm that each question above is truthfully answered by me and in my own handwriting and that below is my real signature.

Signed .....
Inquirer

Business Address ..... Residence Address .....

Telephone No. ....

Date ..... 19..... Telephone No. .....

N. B.—If space above is not sufficient to answer question, then make your answer on the other side of this sheet. Number the answer to correspond with the question.

PRINTED BY THE KU KLUX PRESS

Radio prank almost gives Kyle Sandilands a heart attack

May 07, 2015 news.com.au

Last updated: **May 08, 2015**

Kyle Sandilands almost suffers heart attack after exorcism on Kiis FM breakfast show

Radio show performs very scary exorcism

"Kyle and Jackie O" perform a very scary exorcism. Except there's one thing, the 'guests' are all actors about to perform an "exorcism." Radio host Kyle has no idea about what is about to happen, but his co-host Jackie O does! Courtesy KIIS 1065 FM.

Kyle almost had a heart attack on Kiis FM this morning. *Source:* Supplied

"YOU'VE got to be fuing kidding me! I could have died."**

That was Kyle Sandilands' reaction on air this morning after he was told that the in-studio exorcism he'd just witnessed was actually a prank.

Kyle was under the assumption that a woman named Alice had approached the Kiis FM breakfast show to help out her sister Gabriella, who she feared was possessed.

But unbeknownst to Kyle, the pair of sisters and the priest that took part in the stunt were actually actors.

During the exorcism, Kyle looked on in shock as the supposedly possessed Gabriella recoiled at the sight of a crucifix and even began foaming at the mouth when the priest started praying out loud.

Kyle had no idea the whole thing was a prank. *Source:* Supplied

Kyle was visibly shaken as he watched the convincing performance and at one stage he even turned to an assistant and mouthed, “What the f**k?”

After Gabriella fell to the ground at the end of the exorcism, Kyle said on air, “I’m just about to have a heart attack, my heart’s pounding like no-one’s business”.

And then he found out he’d been duped.

“Hey Kyle,” said Gabriella, “Only lying”.

“You’ve got to be fu**ing kidding me!” said the radio star to a studio full of laughter.

“What is wrong with all you people?! I could have died. I was petrified.”

Story by
ANDREW BUCKLOW news.com.au

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Los Angeles once had bike highways in the sky

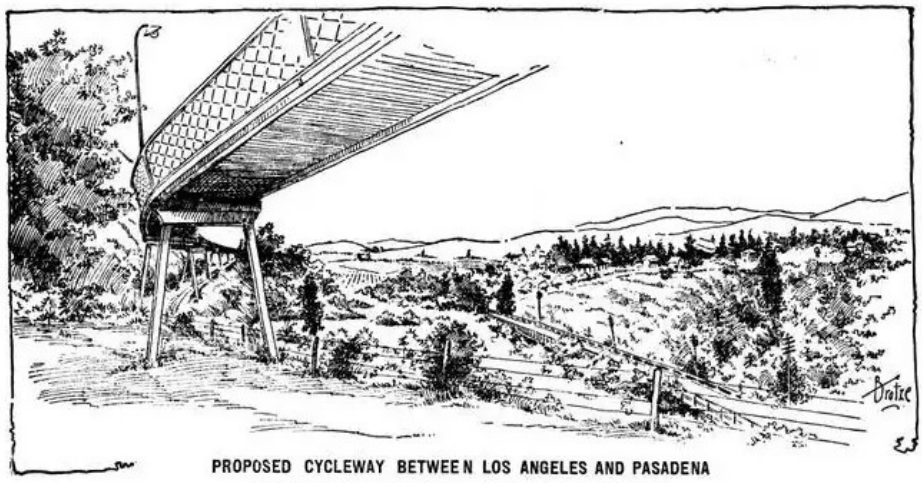
Lloyd Alter (@lloydalter) Transportation / Bikes April 28, 2015

treehugger.com

cycleway photo

We once wrote that Cycle Tracks will abound in Utopia, but over the years came to conclude that separated, elevated bicycle highways were a silly idea. On Gizmodo, Dan Koeppel writes a wonderful article about the famous California Cycleway, "designed to swiftly and conveniently transport people between a pair of key urban centers: the old colonial plaza in Downtown Los Angeles, and Pasadena, the burgeoning, modern suburb to the north that then rivaled the older city in size and ambition." In 1899 bikes were all the rage and everyone was sure it would be a success. It wasn't; the bike boom ended and the Cycleway was never completed.

Koeppel blames the automobile, noting that "In 1902, an entrepreneur named Ransom Olds introduced a cheap, reliable motorcar, the "Oldsmobile." A year later, Henry Ford began producing his first internal combustion engines. " Interestingly, an earlier article by Carlton Reid, on a blog titled "roads were not built for cars" notes that the car was not a factor at all, and that the Cycleway was killed by our other favorite means of transportation: The streetcar.



PROPOSED CYCLEWAY BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND PASADENA

Cycleway newspaper illustration/Public Domain

There's no proof the advent of the automobile had anything whatsoever to do with the financial collapse of the cycleway. In 1900, motor cars were still fresh on the scene and very few people thought they had a certain future, and certainly not an all-dominant future. It took another fifteen years before automobiles started to dominate in the Los Angeles area.

The streetcars were faster and in fact cheaper than the toll on the cycleway. Even Horace Dobbins, builder of the Cycleway, saw them as the future and "In 1909 Dobbins incorporated the Rapid Transit Company in order to create a fast streetcar line into Los Angeles"- on the route of his cycleway.

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'Urine not detergent behind Varthur lake foam'

deccanherald.com

Bengaluru, Apr 29, 2015, DHNS:

Foam brims out of Varthur lake. DH photo

The unbridled influx of the toxins into the Varthur lake has resulted in the spilling of froth from the water body on to the road.

While the stench emanated from the foam has made the lives of people living near there miserable, it is also obstructing the movement of traffic near the Varthur waste-weir. With the flow of wind, the poisonous froth is floating everywhere.

Residents fear that the froth may lead to skin and respiratory diseases, besides offering a breeding place for water borne and vector borne diseases.

Commenting on the accumulation of foam and the stink, M A Khan, Principal of K K school, said: “The smell is an indication that it is hydrogen sulfate and the foam is not because of any detergent soap but due to the phosphate getting into the lake. The urine content is so high that the phosphate in the urine turns into the foam.” Citing his students’ study of Water sampling analysis, Khan said: “At many places in the lake, the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels are almost zero.”

Sridhar Pabbisetty, CEO, Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said: “Contaminated water flowing from Agara and Bellandur lakes are also adding to the already polluted Varthur lake. There is an estimate of 500 Million liters per day (MLD) of untreated sewage coming into and flowing out of Varthur lake. What you now see is remnant of the problem. There has been higher levels of foams."

He squarely blamed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for the sorry state of the lake. He said, "BWSSB should be held accountable for the poor condition of the lake,"

Member of Whitefield Rising, Elangovan Elan said the contamination of lake is hazardous to the bikers as it obstructs their movement and also perches on their body.

He rued that the quality of water in Bengaluru is worse than the villages. He complained that the polluted water is giving rise to many diseases.

Sympathising with the economically weaker section, he observed: "Poor people are suffering more than anyone."

Manohar, resident of Varthur Kodi, observed that the amount of foam has increased in the last six months. He was also worried about impact of the polluted water on people's health.

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VI. Lau-ka-ieie

"Waipio Valley, the beautiful:
Precipices around it,
The sea on one side;
The precipices are hard to climb;
Not to be climbed
Are the sea precipices."

--Hawaiian Chant.

KAKEA (the white one) and Kaholo (the runner) were the children of the Valley. Their parents were the precipices which were sheer to the sea, and could only be passed by boats. They married, and Kaholo conceived. The husband said, "If a boy is born, I will name it; if a girl, you give the name."

He went up to see his sister Pokahi, and asked her to go swiftly to see his wife. Pokahi's husband was Kaukini, a bird-catcher. He went out into the forest for some birds. Soon he came back and prepared them for cooking. Hot stones were put inside the birds and the birds were packed in calabashes, carefully covered over with wet leaves, which made steam inside so the birds were well cooked. Then they were brought to Kaholo for a feast.

On their way they went down to Waipio Valley,

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coming to the foot of the precipice. Pokahi wanted some sea-moss and some shell-fish, so she told the two men to go on while she secured these things to take to Kaholo. She gathered the soft lipoa[1] moss and went up to the waterfall, to Ulu (Kaholo's home). The baby was born, wrapped in the moss and thrown into the sea, making a shapeless bundle, but a kupua (sorcerer) saw that a child was there. The child was taken and washed clean in the soft lipoa, and cared for. All around were the signs of the birth of a chief.

They named him Hiilawe, and from him the Waipio waterfall has its name, according to the saying, "Falling into mist is the water of Hiilawe."

Pokahi took up her package in which she had brought the moss and shell-fish, but the moss was gone. Hina-ulu-ohia (Hina-the-growing-ohia-tree) was the sorcerer who took the child in the lipoa moss. She was the aumakua, or ancestor goddess, of the boat-builders.

Pokahi dreamed that a beautiful woman appeared, her body covered with the leaves of ohia-trees[2]. "I know that you have not had any child. I will now give you one. Awake, and go to the Waipio River; watch thirty days, then You will find a girl wrapped in soft moss. This

[1. Haliseris plagiogramma.

2. Metrosideros rugosa.]

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shall be your adopted child. I will show you how to care for it. Your brother and his wife must not know. Your husband alone may know about this adopted girl."

Pokahi and her husband went down at once to the mouth of the river, heard an infant cry in the midst of red-colored mist, and found a child wrapped in the fragrant moss. She wished to take it up, but was held back by magic powers. She saw an ohia-tree rising up from the water,--branches, leaves, and flowers,--and iiwi (birds) coming to pick the flowers. The red birds and red flowers were very beautiful. This tree was Hina. The birds began to sing, and quietly the tree sank down into the water and disappeared, the birds flying away to the west.

Pokahi returned to her brother's house, going down to the sea every day, where she saw the human form of the child growing in the shelter of that red mist on the surface of the sea. At the end of the thirty days Pokahi told her friends and her husband that they must go back home. On their way they went to the river. She told her husband to look at the red mist, but he wanted to hurry on. As they approached their house, cooking-odors welcomed them, and they found plenty of food prepared outside. They saw something moving inside. The trees seemed to be walking as if with the feet of men. Steps

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were heard, and voices were calling for the people of the house.

Kaukini prepared a lamp, and Pokahi in a vision saw the same fine tree which she had seen before. There was also a hala-tree[1] with its beautiful yellow blossoms. As they looked they saw leaves of different kinds falling one after another, making in one place a soft fragrant bed.

Then a woman and a man came with an infant. They were the god Ku and Hina his wife. They said to Pokahi and her husband, "We have accepted your sacrifices and have seen that you are childless, so now we have brought you this child to adopt." Then they disappeared among the trees of the forest, leaving the child, Lau-ka-ieie[2] (leaf of the ieie vine). She was well cared for and grew up into a beautiful woman without fault or blemish. Her companions and servants were the birds and the flowers.

Lau-ka-pali (leaf of the precipice) was one of her friends. One day she made whistles of ti[3] leaves, and blew them. The Leaf-of-the-Morning-Glory saw that the young chiefess liked this, so she went out and found Pupu-kani-oi (the singing land-shell), whose home was on the leaves of the forest trees. Then she found another Pupu-hina-hina-ula (shell-beautiful with rainbow

[1. Hala, lahala, puhala,--Pandanus adoratissimus.

2. Freycinetia Amotti.

3. Ki or lauki, Cordyline terminalis.]

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colors). In the night the shells sang, and their voices stole their way into the love of Lau-ka-ieie, so she gently sang with them.

Nohu-ua-palai (a fern), one of the old residents of that place, went out into the forest, and, hearing the voices of the girl and the shells, came to the house. She chanted her name, but there was no reply. All was silent. At last, Pua-ohelo (the blossom of the ohelo[1]), one of the flowers in the house, heard, and opening the door, invited her to come in and eat.

Nohu-ua-palai went in and feasted with the girls. Lau-ka-ieie dreamed about Kawelona (the setting of the sun), at Lihue, a fine young man, the first-born of one of the high chiefs of Kauai. She told her kahu (guardian) all about her dream and the distant island. The kahu asked who should go to find the man of the dream. All the girl friends wanted to go. She told them to raise their hands and the one who had the longest fingers could go. This was Pupu-kani-oi (the singing shell). The leaf family all sobbed as they bade farewell to the shell.

The shell said: "Oh, my leaf-sisters Laukoa [leaf of the koa-tree] and Lauanau [leaf of the paper-mulberry tree], arise, go with me on my journey! Oh, my shell-sisters of the blue sea, come to the beach, to the sand! Come and show me the path I am to go! Oh,

[1. Vaccinium penduliformis.]

{p. 41} Pupu-moka-lau [the land-shell clinging to the moki-hana[1] leaf], come and look at me, for I am one of your family! Call all the shells to aid me in my journey! Come to me!"

Then she summoned her brother, Makani-kau, chief of the winds, to waft them away in their wind bodies. They journeyed all around the island of Hawaii to find some man who would be like the man of the dream. They found no one there nor on any of the other islands up to Oahu, where the Singing Shell fell in love with a chief and turned from her journey, but Makani-kau went on to Kauai.

Ma-eli-eli, the dragon woman of Heeia, tried to persuade him to stop, but on he went. She ran after him. Limaloa, the dragon of Laiewai, also tried to catch Makani-kau, but he was too swift. On the way to Kauai, Makani-kau saw some people in a boat chased by a big shark. He leaped on the boat and told them he would play with the shark and they could stay near but need not fear. Then he jumped into the sea. The shark turned over and opened its mouth to seize him; he climbed on it, caught its fins, and forced it to flee through the water. He drove it to the shore and made it fast among the rocks. It became the great shark stone, Koa-mano (warrior shark), at Haena. He leaped from the shark to land, the boat following.

[1. Pelea anisata.]

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He saw the hill of "Fire-Throwing," a place where burning sticks were thrown over the precipices, a very beautiful sight at night. He leaped to the top of the hill in his shadow body. Far up on the hill was a vast number of iiwi (birds). Makani-kau went to them as they were

flying toward Lehua. They only felt the force of the winds, for they could not see him or his real body. He saw that the birds were carrying a fine man as he drew near.

This was the one Lau-ka-ieie desired for her husband. They carried this boy on their wings easily and gently over the hills and sea toward the sunset island, Lehua. There they slowly flew to earth. They were the bird guardians of Kawelona, and when they travelled from place to place they were under the direction of the bird-sorcerer, Kukala-a-ka-manu.

Kawelona had dreamed of a beautiful girl who had visited him again and again, so he was prepared to meet Makani-kau. He told his parents and adopted guardians and bird-priests about his dreams and the beautiful girl he wanted to marry.

Makani-kau met the winds of Niihau and Lehua, and at last was welcomed by the birds. He told Kawelona his mission, who prepared to go to Hawaii, asking how they should go. Makani-kau went to the seaside and called for his

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many bodies to come and give him the boat for the husband of their great sister Lau-ka-ieie. Thus he made known his mana, or spirit power, to Kawelona. He called on the great cloud-gods to send the long white cloud-boat, and it soon appeared. Kawelona entered the boat with fear, and in a few minutes lost sight of the island of Lehua and his bird guardians as he sailed out into the sea. Makani-kau dropped down by the side of a beautiful shell-boat, entered it, and stopped at Mana. There he took several girls and put them in a double canoe, or au-waa-olalua (spirit-boat).

Meanwhile the sorcerer ruler of the birds agreed to find out where Kawelona was to satisfy the longing of his parents, whom he had left without showing them where he was going or what dangers he might meet. The sorcerer poured water into a calabash and threw in two lehua flowers, which floated on the water. Then he turned his eyes toward the sun and prayed: "Oh, great sun, to whom belongs the heavens, turn your eyes downward to look on the water in this calabash, and show us what you see therein! Look upon the beautiful young woman. She is not one from Kauai. There is no one more beautiful than she. Her home is under the glowing East, and a royal rainbow is around her. There are beautiful girls attending her." {p. 44} The sorcerer saw the sun-pictures in the water, and interpreted to the friends the journey of Kawelona, telling them it was a long, long way, and they must wait patiently many days for any word. In the signs he saw the boy in the cloud-boat, Makani-kau in his shell-boat, and the three girls in the spirit-boat.

The girls were carried to Oahu, and there found the shell-girl, Pupu-kani-oi, left by Makani-kau on his way to Lehua. They took her with her husband and his sisters in the spirit-boat. There were nine in the company of travellers to Hawaii: Kawelona in his cloud-boat; two girls from Kauai; Kaiahe, a girl from Oahu; three from Molokai, one from Maui; and a girl called Lihau. Makani-kau himself was the leader; he had taken the girls away. On this journey he turned their boats to Kahoolawe to visit Ka-moho-alii, the ruler of the sharks. There Makani-kau appeared in his finest human body, and they all landed. Makani-kau took Kawelona from his cloud-boat, went inland, and placed him in the midst of the company, telling them he was

the husband for Lau-ka-ieie. They were all made welcome by the ruler of the sharks.

Ka-moho-alii called his sharks to bring food from all the islands over which they were placed as guardians; so they quickly brought prepared food, fish, flowers, leis, and gifts of all kinds. {p. 45} The company feasted and rested. Then Ka-moho-alii called his sharks to guard the travellers on their journey. Makani-kau went in his shell-boat, Kawelona in his cloud-boat, and they were all carried over the sea until they landed under the mountains of Hawaii.

Makani-kau, in his wind body, carried the boats swiftly on their journey to Waipio. Lau-ka-ieie heard her brother's voice calling her from the sea. Hina answered. Makani-kau and Kawelona went up to Waimea to cross over to Lau-ka-ieie's house, but were taken by Hina to the top of Mauna Kea. Poliahu and Lilinoe saw the two fine young men and called to them, but Makani-kau passed by, without a word, to his own wonderful home in the caves of the mountains resting in the heart of mists and fogs, and placed all his travellers there. Makani-kau went down to the sea and called the sharks of Ka-moho-alii. They appeared m their human bodies in the valley of Waipio, leaving their shark bodies resting quietly in the sea. They feasted and danced near the ancient temple of Kahuku-welowelo, which was the place where the wonderful shell, Kiha-pu, was kept.

Makani-kau put seven shells on the top of the precipice and they blew until sweet sounds floated Over all the land. Thus was the marriage of Lau-ka-ieie and Kawelona celebrated.

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All the shark people rested, soothed by the music. After the wedding they bade farewell and returned to Kahoolawe, going around the southern side of the island, for it was counted bad luck to turn back. They must go straight ahead all the way home. Makani-kau went to his sister's house, and met the girls and Lau-ka-ieie. He told her that his house was full of strangers, as the people of the different kupua bodies had assembled to celebrate the wedding. These were the kupua people of the Hawaiian Islands. The eepa people were more like fairies and gnomes, and were usually somewhat deformed. The kupuas may be classified as follows:

Ka-poe-kino-lau (the people who had leaf bodies).

Ka-poe-kino-pua (the people who had flower bodies).

Ka-poe-kino-manu (the people who had bird bodies).

Ka-poe-kino-laau (trees of all kinds, ferns, vines, etc.).

Ka-poe-kino-pupu (all shells).

Ka-poe-kino-ao (all clouds).

Ka-poe-kino-makani (all winds).

Ka-poe-kina-ia (all fish).

Ka-poe-kina-mano (all sharks).

Ka-poe-kina-limu (all sea-mosses).

Ka-poe-kina-pokaku (all peculiar stones).

Ka-poe-kina-hiwa-hiwa (all dangerous places of the pali).

After the marriage, Pupu-kani-oi (the singing shell) and her husband entered the shell-boat, and started back to Molokai. On their way they

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heard sweet bird voices. Makani-kau had a feather house covered with rainbow colors. Later he went to Kauai, and brought back the adopted parents of Kawelona to dwell on Hawaii, where Lau-ka-ieie lived happily with her husband.

Hiilawe became very ill, and called his brother Makani-kau and his sister Lau-ka-ieie to come near and listen. He told them that he was going to die, and they must bury him where he could always see the eyes of the people, and then he would change his body into a wonderful new body.

The beautiful girl took his malo and leis and placed them along the sides of the valley, where they became trees and clinging vines, and Hina made him live again; so Hiilawe became an aumakua of the waterfalls. Makani-kau took the body in his hands and carried it in the thunder and lightning, burying it on the brow of the highest precipice of the valley. Then his body was changed into a stone, which has been lying there for centuries; but his ghost was made by Hina into a kupua, so that he could always appear as the wonderful misty falls of Waipio, looking into the eyes of his people.

After many years had passed Hina assumed permanently the shape of the beautiful ohia-tree, making her home in the forest around the volcanoes of Hawaii. She still had magic power,

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and was worshipped under the name Hina-ula-ohia. Makani-kau watched over Lau-ka-ieie, and when the time came for her to lay aside her human body she came to him as a slender, graceful woman, covered with leaves, her eyes blazing like fire. Makani-kau said: "You are a vine; you cannot stand alone. I will carry you into the forest and place you by the side of Hina. You are the ieie vine. Climb trees! Twine your long leaves around them! Let your blazing red flowers shine between the leaves like eyes of fire! Give your beauty to all the ohia-trees of the forest! "

Carried hither and thither by Makani-kau (great wind), and dropped by the side of splendid tall trees, the ieie vine has for centuries been one of the most graceful tree ornaments in all the forest life of the Hawaiian Islands.

Makani-kau in his spirit form blew the golden clouds of the islands into the light of the sun, so that the Rainbow Maiden, Anuenue, might lend her garments to all her friends of the ancient days.

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V. Legendary Canoe-Making

LEGENDARY CANOE-MAKING

SOME of the Hawaiian trees have beautifully grained wood, and at the present time are very valuable for furniture and interior decoration. The koa[1] is probably the best of the trees of this class. It is known as the Hawaiian mahogany. The grain is very fine and curly and wavy, and is capable of a very high polish. The koa still grows luxuriantly on the steep sides and along the ridges of the high mountains of all the islands of the Hawaiian group. It has great powers of endurance. It is not easily worn by the pebbles and sand of the beach, nor is it readily split or broken by the tempestuous waves of the ocean, therefore from time immemorial the koa has been the tree for the canoe and surf-board of the Hawaiians. Long and large have been the canoes hewn from the massive tree trunks by the aid of the koi-pohaku, the cutting stone, or adze, of ancient Hawaii. Sometimes these canoes were given miraculous powers of motion so that they swept through the seas more rapidly than the swiftest shark. Often the god of the winds, who had special care

[1. Acacia koa.]

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over some one of the high chiefs, would carry him from island to island in a canoe which never rested when calms prevailed or stopped when fierce waves wrenched, but bore the chief swiftly and unfailingly to the desired haven.

There is a delightful little story about a chief who visited the most northerly island, Kauai. He found the natives of that island feasting and revelling in all the abandon of savage life. Sports and games innumerable were enjoyed. Thus day and night passed until, as the morning of a new day dawned, an unwonted stir along the beach made manifest some event of very great importance. The new chief apparently cared but little for all the excitement. The king of the island had sent one of his royal ornaments to a small island some miles distant from the Kauai shores. He was blessed with a daughter so beautiful that all the available chiefs desired her for wife. The father, hoping to avoid the complications which threatened to involve his household with the households of the jealous suitors, announced that he would give his daughter to the man who secured the ornament from the far-away island. It was to be a canoe race with a wife for the prize.

The young chiefs waited for the hour appointed. Their well-polished koa canoes lined the beach. The stranger chief made no preparation, Quietly

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he enjoyed the gibes and taunts hurled from one to another by the young chiefs. Laughingly he requested permission to join in the contest, receiving as the reward for his request a look of approbation from the handsome chiefess.

The word was given. The well-manned canoes were pushed from the shore and forced out through the inrolling surf. In the rush some of the boats were interlocked with others, some filled with water, while others safely broke away from the rest and passed out of sight toward the coveted island. Still the stranger seemed to be in no haste to win the prize. The face of the chiefess grew dark with disappointment.

At last the stranger launched his finely polished canoe and called one of his followers to sail with him. It seemed to be utterly impossible for him to even dream of securing the prize, but the canoe began to move as if it had the wings of a swift bird or the fins of fleetest fish. He had taken for his companion in his magic canoe one of the gods controlling the ocean winds. He was first to reach the island. Then he came swiftly back for his bride. He made his home among his new friends.

The Hawaiians had many interesting ceremonies in connection with the process of securing the tree and fashioning it into a canoe.

David Malo, a Hawaiian writer of about the

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year 1840, says, "The building of a canoe was a religious matter." When a man found a fine koa tree he went to the priest whose province was canoe-making and said, "I have found a koa-tree, a fine large tree." On receiving this information the priest went at night to sleep before his shrine. If in his sleep he had a vision of some one standing naked before him, he knew that the koa-tree was rotten, and would not go up into the woods to cut that tree. If another tree was found and he dreamed of a handsome well-dressed man or woman standing before him, when he awoke he felt sure that the tree would make a good canoe. Preparations were made accordingly to go into the mountains and hew the koa into a canoe. They took with them as offerings a pig, coconuts, red fish, and awa. Having come to the place they rested for the night, sacrificing these things to the gods.

Sometimes, when a royal canoe was to be prepared, it seems as if human beings were also brought and slain at the root of the tree. There is no record of cannibalism connected with these sacrifices, and yet when the pig and fish had been offered before the tree, usually a hole was dug close to the tree and an oven prepared in which the meat and vegetables were cooked for the morning feast of the canoe-makers. The tree was carefully examined and the signs and portents

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noted. The song of a little bird would frequently cause an entire change in the enterprise.

When the time came to cut down the tree the priest would take his stone axe and offer prayer to the male and female deities who were supposed to be the special patrons of canoe-building, showing them the axe, and saying: "Listen now to the axe. This is the axe which is to cut down the tree for the canoe."

David Malo says: "When the tree began to crack, ready to fall, they lowered their voices and allowed no one to make a disturbance. When the tree had fallen, the head priest mounted the trunk and called out, 'Smite with the axe, and hollow the canoe.' This was repeated again and again as he walked along the fallen tree, marking the full length of the desired canoe."

Dr. Emerson gives the following as one of the prayers sometimes used by the priest when passing along the trunk of the tree:

"Grant a canoe which shall be swift as a fish
To sail in stormy seas
When the storm tosses on all sides."

After the canoe had been roughly shaped, the ends pointed, the bottom rounded, and perhaps a portion of the inside of the log removed, the people fastened lines to the canoe to haul it down to the beach. When they were ready for the

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work the priest again prayed: "Oh, canoe gods, look you after this canoe. Guard it from stem to stern, until it is placed in the canoe-house."

Then the canoe was hauled by the people in front, or held back by those who were in the rear, until it had passed all the hard and steep places along the mountain-side and been put in place for the finishing touches. When completed, pig and fish and fruits were again offered to the gods. Sometimes human beings were again a part of the sacrifice.

Prayers and incantations were part of the ceremony. There was to be no disturbance or noise, or else it would be dangerous for its owner to go out in his new canoe. If all the people except the priest had been quiet, the canoe was pronounced safe.

It is said that the ceremony of lashing the outrigger to the canoe was of very great solemnity, probably because the ability to pass through the high surf waves depended so much upon the outrigger as a balance which kept the canoe from being overturned.

The story of Laka and the fairies is told to illustrate the difficulties surrounding canoe-making. Laka desired to make a fine canoe, and sought through the forests for the best tree available. Taking his stone axe he toiled all day until the tree was felled. Then he went home

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to rest. On the morrow he could not find the log. The trees of the forest had been apparently undisturbed. Again he cut a tree, and once more could not find the log. At last he cut a tree and watched in the night. Then he saw in the night shadows a host of the little people who toil with miraculous powers to support them. They raised the tree and set it in its place and restored it to its wonted appearance among its fellows. But Laka caught the king of the gnomes and from him learned how to gain the aid rather than the opposition of the little people. By their help his canoe was taken to the shore and fashioned into beautiful shape for wonderful and successful voyages.

Leprechauns Declare Bankruptcy After Disastrous Quadruple Rainbow

aboveaverage.com

Image courtesy of @amanda_curtis
BY GLENN BOOZAN
APRIL 22, 2015

It's a financial meltdown that has been likened to the 2008 banking crisis: the Leprechaun community – usually known for its chimerical whimsy – filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy this afternoon after a clerical error resulted in four rainbows appearing simultaneously in New York.

"The rainbows were so close together… they discovered our pots of gold so fast…" said Stumpy O'Shaughnessy, the unofficial Leprechaun spokesperson who we spent hours trying to capture in order to get a quote. "We have to give each person three wishes, per rainbow. Quadruple rainbow. That's *twelve* wishes in five minutes, and they *all* wished for more gold. We love mischief but not like this."

To add insult to injury, the quadruple rainbow blew up on the internet causing a PR nightmare. Facebookers everywhere rejoiced in this otherwise inexplicable phenomenon, while O'Shaughnessy pleaded for empathy: "Just remember that at the end of every rainbow is a terrified Leprechaun guarding his entire savings with his life."

Leprechauns, as we discovered, are unphotographable. So here is a stock image of Leprechaun paraphernalia.

"We just sat on our toadstools and let ourselves cry for a few minutes. But we couldn't let the pity party last forever," claimed O'Shaughnessy. "We have to get back out there and keep doing what we love: cobbling, hoarding gold, and secretly tying people's shoelaces together so that when they stand up, they fall over."

There is one silver lining to

this gold mess: filing Chapter 13 means none of the Leprechauns' property will be liquidated, allowing them to remain in their underground hovels.

Financial analysts argue that keeping cauldrons full of money isn't the safest money management style. However, this has been a Leprechauns tradition for centuries. According to their self-imposed business practices, if a human finds a Leprechaun's pot of gold at the the end of a rainbow, the Leprechaun must give all the gold away to the human and grant them three wishes. When asked why Leprechauns still follow this vestigial rule, O'Shaugnessy replied: "Wait, what? What do you mean we don't have to give it away?"

For now, the Leprechauns are doing their best to regroup and get back to their capricious former selves. O'Shaughnessy is hopeful: "Oh God, you're right. We don't have to give it all away. Bullocks."

As the Irish say, "Time will heal all empty gold pots, and then those pots will all be filled back up again soon I hope top of the mornin' to ya lassie."

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Experts unveil life's top 50 misconceptions that have become 'facts'

13:00 EST, 22 April 2015 dailymail.co.uk

Coffee isn't made from beans, you can't see the Great Wall of China from space and Everest ISN'T the world's tallest mountain: The top 50 misconceptions that have become modern day 'facts'

- **Experts have revealed some of the biggest modern day misconceptions**
- **'Faux facts' which we believe to be true include Everest is tallest mountain**
- **Great Wall of China cannot be seen from space, despite common beliefs**
- **List of 50 misconceptions released by London's Ripley's Believe it or Not!**

Coffee is made from beans, chameleons change colour to match their surroundings and Mount Everest is the 'tallest' mountain in the world.

These are all modern day 'facts' which we believe to be true – but experts have pointed out that many are simple misconceptions.

For example, while Everest is officially the tallest mountain in the world, some claim it technically shouldn't own the title because Mauna Kea is the tallest mountain when measured from base to summit.

Others are just downright myths, such as that the Great Wall of China can be seen from space and that caffeine is dehydrating.

Many of the 'faux facts' date back generations and have become part of common folklore but are often based on rumour or as a result of Chinese whispers.

However, closer inspection reveals that commonly-held assumptions such as 'eating cheese before bed gives you nightmares' are, in fact, not quite as true as they seem.

The raft of common misconceptions was uncovered by Ripley's Believe it or Not! London, a visitor attraction dedicated to the bizarre in Piccadilly Circus.

A spokesman said: 'If you're told something enough times, you're sure to start believing it.

'The misconceptions in this list are all pretty plausible, so it's understandable that many Brits will have read it and been certain it's true, with many of us being told these from an early age.

'Unbelievably, all of these commonly believed facts are in fact common misconceptions that we have myths and misconceptions.

'We've found this research really interesting as the whole Ripley's attraction is filled with exhibits that have the 'Believe It or Not!' factor.

'As our founder Robert Ripley used to say, it is often the strangest things that are true.'

Point 7 is then wrong. We are all revolving around the centre of the galaxy. Then what ?..... idiotic article.

mowgli, hinckley, about 6 hours ago

i'm assuming someone at Ripley's never bothered to watch QI at any point in the last 10 or so years.....

lightwilliam, girona, about 7 hours ago

We all know what the forbidden fruit was...ere no missus! settle down settle down!

Brain Slug, Omicron Persei VIII, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

50. Science articles on DM are, truly, about science and can, believe it or not, be trusted.

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THE TOP 50 COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS RESOLVED

1. Coffee is made from beans

While it is widely believed that coffee comes from 'coffee beans', experts say it is actually made from a seed which is called a bean.

2. Chameleons change colour to match their surroundings

Believe it or not, chameleons actually change colour as a response to mood, temperature, communication and light instead of the object they are touching.

3. Mount Everest is the 'tallest' mountain in the world

While Mount Everest is officially deemed the tallest mountain in the world, experts claim that technically it may not be. The summit of Everest is officially higher above sea level than the summit of any other mountain, but Mauna Kea is the tallest when measured from base to summit. However, the record books deem it the tallest because it has the highest peak on Earth.

4. The Great Wall of China can be seen from space

The Apollo astronauts confirmed that you can't see the Great Wall of China from the Moon. In fact, all you can see from the Moon is the white and blue marble of Earth.

5. One human year is equivalent to seven dog years

While true in some cases, it does not apply to everyone because it very much depends on the size and breed of the dog.

6. You lose your body heat fastest through your head

While this is widely believed to be true, some experts say it is a myth and claim humans would be just as cold if they went without a hat as if they went without trousers.

7. The Earth revolves around the Sun

Technically, the Earth, sun and all of the other the planets are orbiting around the centre of mass of the solar system, not specifically the sun.

8. Different parts of your tongue detects different tastes

This was scientifically disproven by research which found that all taste sensations come from all regions of the tongue, although different parts are more sensitive to certain tastes which may be where the popular saying comes from.

9. Peanuts are a type of nut

Unbelievably, peanuts, along with beans and peas, actually belong to the single plant family,

Leguminosae.

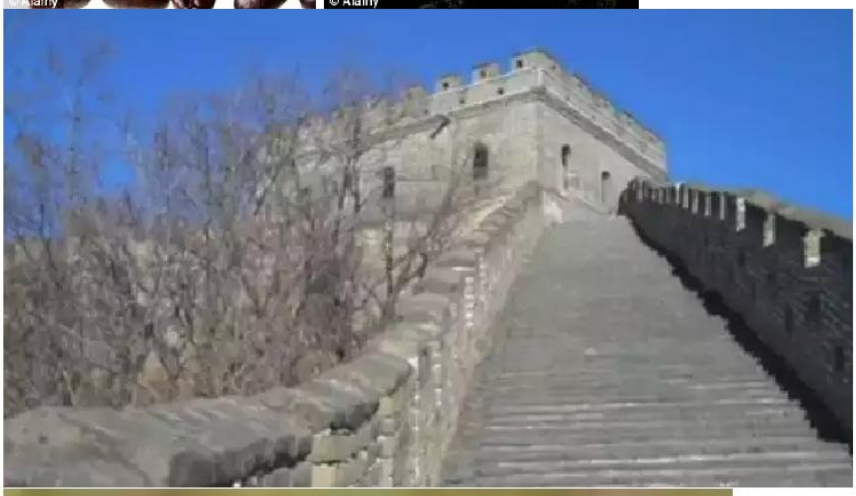
10. Giving children sugar makes them hyper

While some experts do stand by this common belief, other professors claim that the majority of scientific research has concluded that sugar does not cause hyperactivity in youngsters.

Scroll down for video

Despite popular belief, coffee does not actually come from a bean. It is actually made from a seed which is called a bean (left). The Great Wall of China (right) can also not be seen from space despite the belief it can

Chameleons do not change colour to match their surroundings - the belief commonly held. They actually change as a response to mood, temperature, communication and light instead of the object they are touching



11. Humans have five senses

This is correct, although in actual fact there are at least nine senses and most researchers think there are more like 21. The five main senses - sight, sound, touch, smell and taste - are the ones referred to in this popular saying.

12. Fortune cookies are a Chinese tradition

Fortune cookies were originally the invention of Japanese-Americans before being widely adopted by Chinese culture.

13. Sushi means 'raw fish'

Sushi actually translates as sour-tasting.

14. Vikings wore horned helmets

While this may well be true, experts say there is actually no evidence to suggest that Vikings ever wore horned helmets.

15. The forbidden fruit mentioned in the Book of Genesis is an apple

The bible never mentions the forbidden fruit was an apple.

16. Vitamin C is an effective treatment for a cold

Flu-sufferers are often encouraged to increase their dosage of Vitamin C, but most experts have stated that there is little or no evidence that the vitamin can help treatment of a cold. Instead of effectively treating a cold, it is thought to help build up the immune system to ward of potential flu viruses.

17. Penguins mate for life

Penguins are mostly monogamous, but there are some species such as the Emperor Penguin which are serially monogamous. They mate with one couple for the whole season but will probably mate with another penguin the following year as the urgent need for breeding will make them avoid waiting for the same couple.

18. Caffeine dehydrates you

While caffeinated drinks may have a mild diuretic effect - meaning that they may cause the need to urinate - some experts believe they don't appear to increase the risk of dehydration.

19. When in London, you are merely six feet away from a rat

This could well be true but hasn't been proven and is just a rough estimate as rodents are not evenly spread apart.

20. There is a dark side of the moon

As the Moon is constantly rotating on its own axis, there is no area of the planetoid which is in permanent darkness.

Mount Everest is deemed the 'tallest' mountain in the world. However, the summit of the mountain is higher above sea level than the summit of any other, but Mauna Kea is the tallest when measured from base to top

People commonly believe that sushi (left) means 'raw fish', when it actually means 'sour-tasting'. It is also believed that penguins mate for life, but there are some species which actually mate with others for breeding

21. A toilet's flush will change direction depending upon which hemisphere it is in

The real cause of 'backwards'-flushing toilets is just that the water jets point in the opposite direction.

22. Mars is red

The red colour we see in images of Mars is just the result of iron rusting.

23. Sunflowers track the sun across the sky

A common misconception is that sunflower heads track the sun across the sky when in full bloom. The uniform alignment of the flowers does result from heliotropism in an earlier development stage, the bud stage, before the appearance of flower heads so technically they follow the sun before they have bloomed, not after.

24. People use just 10 per cent of their brain

Neurologists describe the myth as false and state we use virtually every part of the brain, and that (most of) the brain is active almost all the time.

25. Your fingernails continue to grow after you die

The dehydration of the body after death can cause retraction of the skin around hair and nails, giving the illusion that they have grown. However, all tissues require energy to sustain their functions, and no such thing is possible once the mechanism that promotes normal growth shuts down at death.

26. Bats are blind

Despite the tiny eyes and nocturnal lifestyle, none of the roughly 1,100 bat species are blind.

27. Dropping a penny from the Empire State building would kill someone

A penny only weighs about a gram and it tumbles as it falls. Because of the tumbling and the light weight, there's so much air resistance that the penny never really gathers that much speed before it hits its terminal velocity. A gram of weight travelling at a relatively slow speed might hurt a little if it hit you on the head, but it's not going to kill you.

28. Handling a baby bird will make its mother reject it

Most birds have a very poor sense of smell, so in most cases are unable to even notice human scent on baby bird.

29. You need to wait 24 hours before reporting a missing person to the police

There is no rule that states you have to wait 24 hours before reporting a missing person. The person will be recorded as missing and their details made available to other UK police forces within 48 hours.

While many believe bulls are angered by the colour red, it is actually a proven fact that they only see blue and yellow. They only react to the red cape because of the movements that flutter around, which enrages them

Excessive caffeine is believed to cause dehydration, but it actually only acts as a mild diuretic (file picture)

30. Your blood is blue before its oxygenated

While many believe that de-oxygenated blood is blue, it is actually a myth because human blood is always red - although the level of redness does differ depending on how oxygenated it is.

31. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds

This is not true as goldfish do actually have very good memories for fish. They can be trained to respond various ways to certain colours of light, different kinds of music and other sensory cues.

32. You need to wait an hour after eating before you can swim safely

As with any exercise after eating, swimming right after a big meal might be uncomfortable, but it won't cause you to drown. However, it is good advice to stay out of the pool right after a big meal as the digestive process does divert the circulation of the blood towards the gut and to a certain extent, away from the muscles, meaning swimming could feel harder.

33. Bulls are enraged by the colour red

It is a proven fact that bulls only see blues and yellow. They only react to the red cape because of the movements that flutter around.

34. Seasons are caused by the Earth being closer to the Sun

As Earth orbits the sun, its tilted axis always points in the same direction. So, throughout the year, different parts of Earth get the sun's direct rays.

35. Eating lots of chocolate will give you spots

There is no concrete evidence that suggests eating more chocolate can cause spots.

36. Shaving your leg hair will make it grow back quicker

Many believe shaving body hair makes it grow back quicker but shaving hair doesn't change its thickness, colour or rate of growth. Shaving facial or body hair simply gives the hair a blunt tip which might feel coarse or 'stubbly' for a period of time as it grows out.

37. Frankenstein was the name of the monster in Mary Shelley's book 'Frankenstein'

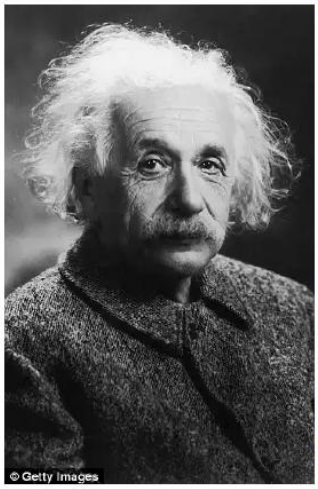
Frankenstein was the name of the monster's creator.

38. Microwave radiation can cause cancer

Most experts say that microwave ovens don't give off enough energy to damage the genetic material (DNA) in cells so they can't cause cancer.

39. Men think about sex every seven seconds

While some men might think about sex this often, there is no real evidence to support this statement.



Many believe Albert Einstein (left) failed maths at school, but he actually only failed one entry exam and excelled in mathematics. Sunflowers (right) also do not follow the sunshine, as commonly believed by some

40. Ostriches bury their head in the sand when they are scared

Ostriches swallow sand and pebbles to help grind up food in their stomachs. This means they have to bend down and briefly stick their heads in the earth to collect the pebbles. It is not because they are scared.

41. Waking sleepwalkers harms them

Waking a sleepwalker won't cause them any physical harm but but could leave them startled or disoriented which is why many people believe it is best not to disturb them.

42. Albert Einstein failed maths at school

He failed one entry exam to a school but in fact, he actually excelled at mathematics throughout his schooling and even considered becoming a mathematician for a time.

43. Salty water boils quicker

The salt water requires more exposure to the heat in order to boil than water alone, so the boiling point is elevated and the time it takes to get the water to boil increases.

44. Carrots help you see in the dark

Carrots contain vitamin A, or retinol, and this is required for your body to synthesise rhodopsin, which is the pigment in your eyes that operates in low-light conditions. If you have a vitamin A deficiency, you will develop nyctalopia or night blindness. Eating carrots would correct this and improve your night vision, but only to the point of an ordinary healthy person - it won't ever let you see in complete darkness.

45. Houseflies only live for around 24hours

The adult housefly can live up to one month in the wild.

46. Eating cheese before bed will give you nightmares

Cheese is believed to give you more emotionally charged dreams but not necessarily nightmares.

Shaving facial or body hair does not make it grow back quicker, as many women believe. It actually just gives the hair a blunt tip which might make it feel coarse or 'stubbly' for a certain period of time as it grows out

Peanuts are not actually a nut and instead belong, along with beans, to the plant family called Leguminosae

47. The capital of Australia is Sydney

The capital of Australia is, in fact, Canberra.

48. Tomatoes are a vegetable

Tomatoes are a fruit

49. Going out in the cold with wet hair will make you ill

There is no evidence to support this, it is regarded as an old wives' tale.

50. Alcohol keeps you warm

Alcohol may make your skin feel warm, but this apparent heatwave is deceptive. A nip or two actually causes your blood vessels to dilate, moving warm blood closer to the surface of your skin, making you feel warmer temporarily. At the same time, however, those same veins pumping blood closer to the skin's surface causing you to lose core body heat.

aquarius02, East Kilbride, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Most of this is common knowledge, but the coffee seed is not called a bean, but a pod

Alan F., Surrey, about 5 hours ago

"20. There is a dark side of the moon As the Moon is constantly rotating on its own axis, there is no area of the planetoid which is in permanent darkness." People don't mean that there's one side of the Moon constantly in darkness when they say this, it means that there's one side of the Moon always unseen from Earth because the same side always faces the Earth. It's used the same way as "dark ages", it means there are very few written records from that time, no one thinks we had no sunshine for several hundred years.. "22. Mars is red The red colour we see in images of Mars is just the result of iron rusting." Yes, making Mars red...

Edit public profile, Midlands, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

51 : Yours is bigger than mine..

Anna-Lynn de Corz, Tillit Herts, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

So, someone at Ripley 's watches QI on BBC2.

ChampagneLib, Chelsea, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Number 51. Nigel Farage is a perfectly sane man and CAN be trusted in the capacity of Prime Minister of HM's Government should it happen come the 7th.

Daniel, UK, about 6 hours ago

There's already a much better common misconceptions list on Wikipedia.

Berty Wooster, South, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

So then Mars IS red. WTF?

Berty Wooster, South, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Liquid mercury found under Mexican pyramid could lead to king's tomb

Alan Yuhas in New York
Friday 24 April 2015 Last modified on Friday 24 April 2015

theguardian.com

Researcher reports 'large quantities' of the substance under ruins of Teotihuacan in discovery that could shed light on city's mysterious leaders

Visitors look at the archaeological area of the Quetzalcoatl (Feathered Serpent) Temple near the Pyramid of the Sun at the Teotihuacan archaeological site, north of Mexico City. Photograph: Henry Romero/Reuters Archaeologists work at a tunnel that may lead to royal tombs at the ancient city of Teotihuacan, in this May 2011 photo. Photograph: Handout/Reuters An undated graphic shows the tunnel that may lead to a royal tombs discovered undemeath the Quetzalcoatl temple in the ancient city of Teotihuacan. Photograph: Handout/Reuters

An archaeologist has discovered liquid mercury at the end of a tunnel beneath a Mexican pyramid, a finding that could suggest the existence of a king's tomb or a ritual chamber far below one of the most ancient cities of the Americas.

Mexican researcher Sergio Gómez announced on Friday that he had discovered "large quantities" of liquid mercury in a chamber below the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent, the third largest pyramid of Teotihuacan, the ruined city in central Mexico.

Gómez has spent six years slowly excavating the tunnel, which was unsealed in 2003 after 1,800 years. Last November, Gómez and a team announced they had found three chambers at the tunnel's 300ft end, almost 60ft below the the temple. Near the entrance of the chambers, they a found trove of strange artifacts: jade statues, jaguar remains, a box filled with carved shells and rubber balls.

archaeologists Teotihuacan mexico

Slowly working their way down the broad, dark and deep corridor beneath the pyramid, battling humidity and now obliged to wear protective gear against the dangers of mercury poisoning, Gómez and his team are meticulously exploring the three chambers.

Mercury is toxic and capable of devastating the human body through prolonged exposure; the liquid metal had no apparent practical purpose for ancient Mesoamericans. But it has been discovered at other sites. Rosemary Joyce, a professor of anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, said that archaeologists have found mercury at three other sites, two Maya and one Olmec, around Central America.

Gómez speculated to Reuters that the mercury could be a sign that his team is close to uncovering the first royal tomb ever found in Teotihuacan after decades of excavation – and

centuries of mystery surrounding the leadership of the cryptic but well-preserved city.

The mercury may have symbolized an underworld river or lake, Gómez postulated, an idea that resonated with Annabeth Headreck, a professor at the University of Denver and the author of works on Teotihuacan and Mesoamerican art.

The shimmering, reflective qualities of liquid mercury may have resembled "an underworld river, not that different from the river Styx," Headrick said, "if only in the concept that it's the entrance to the supernatural world and the entrance to the underworld."

"Mirrors were considered a way to look into the supernatural world, they were a way to divine what might happen in the future," she said. "It could be a sort of river, albeit a pretty spectacular one."

Joyce said that archaeologists know that scintillation fascinated the ancient people generally, and that the liquid mercury may have held been regarded as "somewhat magical … there for ritual purposes or symbolic purposes."

Headrick said that mercury was not the only object of fascination: "a lot of ritual objects were made reflective with mica," a sparkling mineral likely imported to the region.

In 2013 archaeologists using a robot found metallic spheres which they dubbed "disco balls" in an un-excavated portion of the tunnel, near pyrite mirrors. "I wish I could understand all the things these guys are finding down there," Headrick said, "but it's unique and that's why it's hard."

Water was also precious to many of the people of Mesoamerica, who knew of underground water systems and lakes that could be accessed through caves. Teotihuacan once had springs as well, though they are now dried out.

Joyce said the ancient Mesoamericans could produce liquid mercury by heating mercury ore, known as cinnabar, which they also used for its blood-red pigment. The Maya used cinnabar to decorate jade objects and color the bodies of their royalty, for instance; the people of Teotihuacan – for whom archaeologists have not agreed on a name – have not left any obvious royal remains for study.

Teotihuacan mexico Quetzalcoatl

The discovery of a tomb could help solve the enigma of how Teotihuacan was ruled, and Joyce said that the concentration of artifacts outside the tunnel chambers could be associated with a tomb – or a set of ritual chambers.

A royal tomb could lend credence to the theory that the city, which flourished between 100-700AD, was ruled by dynasties in the manner of the Maya, though with far less obvious flair for self-glorification.

But a royal tomb cold also hold the remains of a lord, which may fit with a competing idea about the city. Linda Manzanilla, a Mexican archaeologist acclaimed by many of her peers, contends that the city was ruled by four lords and notes that the city lacks a palace or apparent depiction of kings on its many murals.

Headrick suggested yet more fluid models, in which strong lineages or clans traded rule but never cemented into dynasties, or in which the rulers relied on agreements with the military to maintain power, and authority was vested more in an office than a family. Ancient Teotihuacan was a city with familiar factions vying for influence: the elite, the military, the merchants, the priests and the people.

For now, the archaeologists and anthropologists continue digging and deducing. Gomez says he hopes excavation of the chambers to be complete by October, and Headrick said that archeologists are looking at the city from new angles. Some are trying to decipher the paintings and hieroglyphics around the city, others trying to parse what may be a writing system without verbs or syntax.

Then there are the thousands of artifacts, some unprecedented and bizarre, that Gomez and his fellows are disinterring from beneath the pyramid. “It’s quite the mystery,” Headrick said. “It’s fun.”

- ayelvington
41m ago

Could the mercury have served as a friction-free bearing surface for moving something? Early rotating lighthouse lenses "floated" on mercury bearings. It might be as magical as an engineering solution for a tight space...

- Cynndara
1h ago

They really ought to get a couple of magical experts in there. Someone with anthropological/academic specialty in native South American magical customs, and a sensitive or two for fun. These items simply scream of magical purposes; it's typical to use reflective items like mirrors and mica chips as demon-wards, for instance, especially when many separate reflectives are grouped -- like the glittering photo-optical tape strands used to scare birds away from modern gardens, these things are used all over the world to avert evil spirits. An expert with knowledge of local traditions could probably shed light on any number of the discoveries.

  - AlCramer Cynndara
43m ago

I would be surprised in they haven't done as you suggest! Mesoamerican archaeological studies have gotten pretty adventurous over the last 20-30 years. Check out "Maya Cosmos" (Freidel/Schele/Parker, publisher Quil, 1993). The authors are main-stream North American academics, but they are definitely out

there.

- B SAENZ

1h ago

This is a Toltec Tomb, not an Aztec one, the Aztecs came hundreds of years later, mercury was very common in Mexico as the Toltec mined gold-silver-zinc and this is a byproduct.

The Toltec-Chichimec split into the Maya-Chichemec-Toltec and what you are referring to is a Toltec King. There was mining in that area that was Teotihuacan which was/is a huge Toltect gold-silver-zinc mine, mined with mercury amalgamation through Patio process. Mercury is also a by-product from the mining and refining of other metals including gold, silver and zinc most mercury can be captured and reused by Toltec-Chichimeca. Mercury was once used by Toltec-Chichimeca-Maya in gold processing who employed mercury assist with the extraction of gold and silver from ore. This Toltec-Chichimeca-Mayan process has since been replaced by more efficient and less environmentally damaging techniques such as cyanide leaching in large-scale and industrial mining.

The Tolteca-Chichimeca-Maya their land was in Teotihuacan as protected by the Guamares an indigenous group of warriors that were the enemies of the Aztecs, the Guamares were/are "the bravest, most warlike, treacherous and destructive of all the Chichimecas, and the most astute (dispuesta)", hence why the Guamares-Chichimec-Toltec-Maya were most feared by the Aztecs.

- mizdarlin

2h ago

Another theory could be that the tomb, if in fact that is what it proves to be, was 'protected' from grave robbers by the mercury's presence..put there to kill off or at least make very sick anyone not wearing protective gear like this archaeologist...the Egyptians hid or 'booby-trapped' some of their tombs, and in China, there is an Emperor's tomb with a mercury lake in one of the buried layers.
Teotihuacans must have known how deadly, as well as beautiful and reflective, mercury was...

- GrumpyOldDog

2h ago

Perhaps we can all learn a lesson from these discoveries about Mayan civilisations.

And that is if our modern economies are not specifically redesigned to be sustainable from the point of view of environment, agriculture, climate, land use, renewable resource consumption, cooperation and conflict resolution, then we may be doomed to follow the Mayans down the path to failure, destruction and ultimately extinction.

Why would we ever deliberately choose such a path? Yet that is exactly where the conservative and free-market ideologues who run our national economies would have us go. These ideologues are crazy, absolutely crazy!

- Andy Good
2h ago

Have the they found bones with Mercury poisoning? It replaces the calcium. (See Minimata poisonings from eating contaminated tuna). Id expect those who created the Mercury to have high levels in their bones.

- Joe Code stud
2h ago

Protect the site before the Americans claim it and tax it.

- Robert Looren de Jong
3h ago

Well hopefully they can learn something from the discovery always was one of the mysterious civilizations from the past

- earth1
3h ago

Booby trap.

- mypetspider
3h ago

Look at the Moon on the surface of water at night. Now look at a blob of liquid mercury.

  - MaryJaneHudson mypetspider
  2h ago

  I live in Hull. Both of those things are impossible.

  - mypetspider MaryJaneHudson
  2h ago

  Doesn't matter where you live. Imagination is the key to unlocking mystery.

- AllisonAnn
4h ago

Or, maybe they knew mercury was poisonous, and it served as a warning to stay out! :)

- goneforeign
4h ago

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our community standards. Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see our FAQs

- carboncopy

4h ago

When can the public see the thousands of artifacts?

  - MaryJaneHudson carboncopy

  2h ago

  Hopefully never. The public don't appreciate them.

- ALfromVA

5h ago

The Mercury was for the aliens, duh

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Little Girl Photobombed in Japan By the Ghost of a Samurai redbookmag.com

Apr 21, 2015 @ 12:41 PM

Little Girl Photobombed in Japan By the Ghost of a Samurai

In today's ghastly tale of ghostly photobombs, we present to you this little Canadian girl on holiday at a beach in Japan whose picture was rudely upstaged by the spirit of a dismembered Samurai warrior.

After taking a few snaps of his daughter near a Samurai burial ground, her dad reviewed the pictures, as you do, and noticed that a man (or at least half of him) was lurking behind his child. The dad's pal polled reddit for an explanation of who the booted-up lurker could have been.

The post from user Obiaruf said, "My friend took this pic (sic) of his kid. He's a bit too disturbed by it all to post himself, so I am doing it for him because I'm fascinated by it."

"Nobody was around when the photo was taken and certainly nobody was behind her. He took about five photos of her at this spot over a period of about two minutes. I've known this guy for years and trust him. It has definitely not been Photoshopped, but I'm also not saying this is anything."

If you recall from the Tom Cruise movie, or ya know, from history, Samurais were noble warriors in medieval Japan who were often depicted in body armor and boots—much like the ones worn by this "apparition." So what do you think? Chivalrous Samurai who once fell on his own sword, looking to play tour guide to these kindly Canadians? Or is this dad playing a very subtle trick on us?

Apr 22, 2015

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Lost Boys (1987) – Revelation of Satanic Ritual Abuse?

21stcenturywire.com

March 24, 2015 By Shawn Helton

Jay Dyer

One of the classic 80s cult films I've overlooked and delayed doing an analysis of has been Joel Schumacher's 1987 *Lost Boys*...

While somewhat of a box office hit at the time, the film is arguably more popular now than it was at the time of its release. With straight to DVD sequels and endless references in pop culture references, *Lost Boys* is its own little phenomenon.

However, when we consider the fact that Schumacher is a director who is apparently aware of deeper aspects of the occult, such as numerology and mind control, seen in his 2007 film *The Number 23*, as well as news revelations of elite pedophile rings and ritual abuse, we have justification for investigating something deeper in *Lost Boys*.

The plot centers around a newly divorced mom named Lucy (Diane Wiest), and her two sons, Michael (Jason Patric) and Sam (Corey Haim) who are forced to move from Phoenix to Lucy's trickster father's cabin, the kooky pot-smoking Grandpa. Upon entering the fictional Santa Carla, Michael notices a warning painted on the back of billboard that it's the "murder capitol of the world." David (Kiefer Sutherland) is the alpha dog in a band of roving, miscreant Aryan vampires, who are members of a secret coven, led by cult head, Max (Edward Hermann).

I'm sure most readers have seen the film, so we won't get bogged down in plot details, but I will argue that the film's title itself, *Lost Boys*, will be a clue to the interpretation I give. On one level, the reference is to **J.M. Barrie**'s lost boys of *Peter Pan* fame, but it also has reference to human trafficking and *literal* "lost boys,"

as we see community posting boards full of "missing child" pictures. Santa Carla is home to vampire cults eating victims, but aside from the fat cop, the majority of the numerous "missing" posters in the film are children and teens. Another key indicator is the triangle with a spiral seen on the first board, which the FBI identifies as a symbol for pedophile rings.

IMAGE: 'Dark Symbology' –

Missing children with a triangle spiral seen above.

We can also see significance in the names of the main characters, as Michael recalls *St. Michael*, the guardian angel, Sam, Samael or Satan, and Lucy, Lucifer. Similarly, when Michael learns the name of his love interest, "Star" (Jami Gertz), he explains that his parents were hippies who almost named him "Moonchild." Moonchild is the famous novel of Aleister Crowley that refers to impregnation by a spirit being –

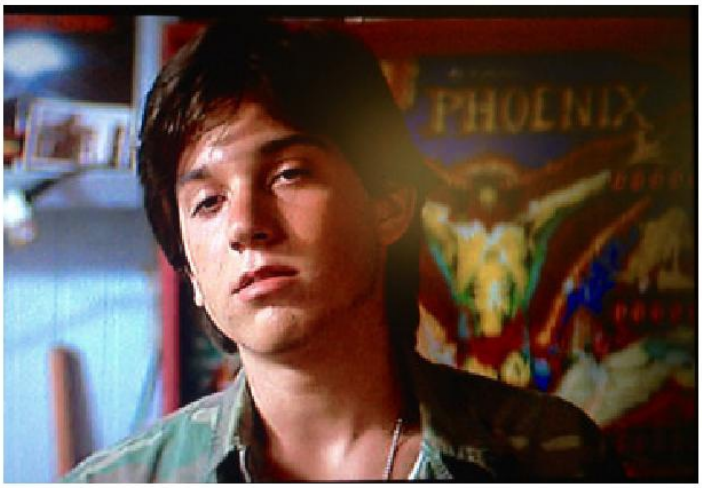
something occult rituals have long sought to invoke.

Indeed, Lucy's parenting style perfectly portrays a failed parent who seeks to be her sons' "friend." With a broken family and baby-boomer hippy parenting, Lucy's family becomes a model of American dysfunctionalism, while simultaneously the circus atmosphere of Santa Carla becomes emblematic of the entertainment-dominated circus that is pop Amerika. Having grown up in California during the 80s, and being about the same age as Corey Haim, I can affirm the weirdness of California.

IMAGE: 'Winged Sun' – Lucy's Sun Disc

The film is oddly dominated by two strands of symbology – Native American and Egyptian. Lucy wears a sun disc necklace, Grandpa's cabin is full of Native American artwork, and mention of "Phoenix" is made frequently. There is alot to unpack here, but I think the overall significance here is simply dominant occult imagery. We do see an All-Seeing Eye with an ankh in the comic book shop where Sam meets the Frog Brothers, which suggests Masonry or witchcraft.

While the Frog Brothers represent "truth, justice and the American way," Sam begins to notice bizarre synchronicities between what he reads in his comics and real life. Indeed, the comic shop itself seems to be a miniature location of all the symbology in the film, from upwards pentagrams to the Phoenix to the All-Seeing Eye. Even the stoned couple passed out by the TV represent the destructive, dysfunctional nature of the post-60s boomer generation.



Michael, Lucy's firstborn son, we discover to be Star's first human sacrifice. While it may be news to readers, the notion of human sacrifice is very real in serious cult groups. In fact, the recent revelations of elite pedophilia in the U.K. in the Savile circles includes the sacrifice of children, as well as the Franklin Coverup. Both the Franklin coverup and the pedophilia in the U.K. also includes the trafficking of young boys, and when we consider the revelations of all the same degeneracy in Roman Catholicism, we can see a clear pattern of what former Jesuit and exorcist **Malachi Martin** exposed in 1990 in his ***Keys of This Blood***. Martin wrote:

*"Most frighteningly for [Pope] **John Paul** [II], he had come up against the irremovable presence of a malign strength in his own Vatican and in certain bishops' chanceries. It was what knowledgeable Churchmen called the 'superforce.' Rumors, always difficult to verify, tied its installation to the beginning of Pope Paul VI's reign in 1963. Indeed Paul had alluded somberly to 'the smoke of Satan which has entered the Sanctuary'. . . an oblique reference to an enthronement ceremony by Satanists in the Vatican. Besides, the incidence of Satanic pedophilia—rites and practices— was already documented among certain bishops and priests as widely dispersed as Turin, in Italy, and South Carolina, in the United States. The cultic acts of Satanic pedophilia are considered by professionals to be the culmination of the Fallen Archangel's rites." (p. 632)*

With this in mind, the ritual aspects of David and Max's coven takes on a new perspective. Michael is lured into the cult through sex with Star and participation in the ritual of drinking blood and hallucinogens. As Michael is inducted, he has a bad trip that results in an alteration of his psyche that leads to the beginnings of possession.

As he falls further and further into darkness, his alchemical processing culminates in ritual sex with Star. In other words, sex magick is in the background of Lost Boys, giving new meaning to the notion of Max's "boys." They aren't his biological children, and in the climax scene, Max reveals his desire to make Lucy's boys "part of his family." This lends credence to the idea that possibly dark forces have led Lucy to Santa Carla, and the "Phoenix" imagery is intended to be a rebirth of a demonic nature – Lucy and her boys are going to be "reborn" into a new "family."

IMAGE: 'All Seeing, All Consuming' – Sam and Frog Brothers pass the ankh and All-Seeing Eye.

The "Family" also hearkens to two different California cults, the "Family" of Charles Manson and the family of the "Children of God." Both cults involved the brainwashing of children and teens for sexual slavery and occult ritualism, as well as murder. The Manson case is well-known, but the Children of God, or the Family International cult is lesser known, yet involved famously the case of **River Phoenix**, who ended up dead after revealing to *Vanity Fair* the sinister elements of the cult. Other famous figures had unfortunate experiences with the Children, too, such as **Rose McGowan**. These cults served as fronts for sex trafficking weirdos, as well as utilizing mind control and brainwashing techniques. Interesting side note – Joaquin played a victimized cult member in the Scientology-esque based film, *The Master*

.

Another strange element is the Doors theme that occurs throughout the film, from the credit sequence version of "People are Strange," to the **Jim Morrison** posters in the Vampire cult's hotel cave. This may have reference to Morrison's own reported induction into the occult through his affair with **Patricia Kinnealy**, as vividly portrayed in Oliver Stone's *The Doors*. The scene of Michael's induction is noticeably similar to the portrayal in Stone's film, but even more interesting is the military industrial complex affiliations with the rise of the Laurel Canyon musicians as exposed in Dave McGowan's work (including The Doors). I have cited it before, but in relation to *Lost Boys*, we again see the oblique hints at these dark networks and readers should keep in mind that *True Detective* was also based on a real case.

In conclusion, what we see from such films is a revelation of the dark side of the establishment, and even though Lost Boys contains a lot of silly, fantastical elements, I think there is a case to be made that more is lurking in the background. Note that I am not making any accusations against Schumacher or any specific person – I do not know who Feldman and Haim say they were abused by.

Nevertheless, Feldman's claims are daily being vindicated in even mainstream media, as U.S. and U.K. outlets are unable to contain the avalanche of abuses by the degenerate establishment, including Satanic ritual abuse. While skeptics may scoff at all this, I grew up near a town famous for its own convicted Vampire murder cult – that of Rod Ferrell, whose teen coven met in an old, abandoned hotel. Whatever your own personal views, it is a fact that some people take this very seriously, despite your skepticism.

Lucky lamb is saved from the dinner table – because he is born with five legs

dailyrecord.co.uk

Lucky lamb saved from the chop after talk of the farmyard is born with five legs

- 19:25, 21 April 2015
- By Laura Connor

DESPITE his deformity, Jake has defied vets by running around like any of his brothers and sisters on the Welsh farm.

Can you count what's wrong with this little lamb's leg

THIS lucky wee lamb has been saved from ending up on a dinner plate because he was born with five legs.

Plucky Jake was born with an extra limb on a family-run farm in Powys in the Welsh countryside.

If it wasn't for his pentapedal form, farmer Bethan Lloyd-Davies would have fattened Jake up and prepared him for sale to the slaughterhouse, says The Mirror.

Despite his five legs, Jake has been running and jumping just like any other lamb at the farm in Powys.

Bethan's son Sion, 16, was delivering the lamb when he was confused as to why he could feel so many legs inside the mother sheep.

Bethan said: “When he came out they said ‘Oh my God, come and look at this!’

"We didn't expect him to live because they tend to die if they have a deformity.

“But he is is thriving with his extra leg and springing and jumping about like lambs do.

“He is able to lift it off the ground when he runs and when he lies down he tucks it up beneath him.”

Vets called out to the family’s Rhiwlas Farm, near Llanwddyn, to check on him were amazed by his health and said they had never seen a five-legged lamb alive.

Bethan, who also runs a B&B with husband Peter, said Jake had been destined for the dinner table if he was born with four legs.

She said: “He would have gone out to the fields to fatten up and go for meat but now we will keep him close to the farm as a mascot.”

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II. Maluae and the Under-world

MALUAE AND THE UNDER-WORLD

HIS is a story from Manoa Valley, back of Honolulu. In the upper end of the valley, at the foot of the highest mountains on the island Oahu, lived Maluae. He was a farmer, and had chosen this land because rain fell abundantly on the mountains, and the streams brought down fine soil from the decaying forests and disintegrating rocks, fertilizing his plants.

Here he cultivated bananas[1] and taro[2] and sweet potatoes. His bananas grew rapidly by the sides of the brooks, and yielded large bunches of fruit from their tree-like stems; his taro filled small walled-in pools, growing in the water like water-lilies, until the roots were matured, when the plants were pulled up and the roots boiled and prepared for food; his sweet potatoes--a vegetable known among the ancient New Zealanders as ku-maru, and supposed to have come from Hawaii-were planted on the drier uplands.

Thus he had plenty of food continually growing, and ripening from time to time. Whenever he gathered any of his food products he brought a part to his family temple and placed it on an

[1. Maia or Musa sapientum.

2. Calocasia antiquorum.]

{p. 15}

altar before the gods Kane and Kanaloa, then he took the rest to his home for his family to eat.

He had a boy whom he dearly loved, whose name was Kaa-lii (rolling chief). This boy was a careless, rollicking child.

One day the boy was tired and hungry. He passed by the temple of the gods and saw bananas, ripe and sweet, on the little platform before the gods. He took these bananas and ate them all.

The gods looked down on the altar expecting to find food, but it was all gone and there was nothing for them. They were very angry, and ran out after the boy. They caught him eating the bananas, and killed him. The body they left lying under the trees, and taking out his ghost threw it into the Under-world.

The father toiled hour after hour cultivating his food plants, and when wearied returned to his home. On the way he met the two gods. They told him how his boy had robbed them of their sacrifices and how they had punished him. They said, "We have sent his ghost body to the lowest regions of the Under-world."

The father was very sorrowful and heavyhearted as he went on his way to his desolate home. He searched for the body of his boy, and at last found it. He saw too that the story of the gods

was true, for partly eaten bananas filled the mouth, which was set in death.

{p. 16}

He wrapped the body very carefully in kapa cloth made from the bark of trees.[1] He carried it into his rest-house and laid it on the sleeping-mat. After a time he lay down beside the body, refusing all food, and planning to die with his boy. He thought if he could escape from his own body he would be able to go down where the ghost of his boy had been sent. If he could find that ghost he hoped to take it to the other part of the Under-world, where they could be happy together.

He placed no offerings on the altar of the gods. No prayers were chanted. The afternoon and evening passed slowly. The gods waited for their worshipper, but he came not. They looked down on the altar of sacrifice, but there was nothing for them.

The night passed and the following day. The father lay by the side of his son, neither eating nor drinking, and longing only for death. The house was tightly closed.

Then the gods talked together, and Kane said: "Maluae eats no food, he prepares no awa to drink, and there is no water by him. He is near the door of the Under-world. If he should die, we would be to blame."

Kanaloa said: "He has been a good man, but now we do not hear any prayers. We are losing

[1. Trees used for kapa were the hau, olona, akala, maaloa, mamaki, pouli, and wauke.]

{p. 17}

our worshipper. We in quick anger killed his son. Was this the right reward? He has called us morning and evening in his worship. He has provided fish and fruits and vegetables for our altars. He has always prepared awa[1] from the juice of the yellow awa root for us to drink. We have not paid him well for his care."

Then they decided to go and give life to the father, and permit him to take his ghost body and go down into Po, the dark land, to bring back the ghost of the boy. So they went to Maluae and told him they were sorry for what they had done.

The father was very weak from hunger, and longing for death, and could scarcely listen to them.

When Kane said, "Have you love for your child?" the father whispered: "Yes. My love is without end." "Can you go down into the dark land and get that spirit and put it back in the body which lies here?"

"No," the father said, "no, I can only die and go to live with him and make him happier by taking him to a better place."

Then the gods said, "We will give you the power to go after your boy and we will help you to

escape the dangers of the land of ghosts."

Then the father, stirred by hope, rose up and took food and drink. Soon he was strong enough to go on his journey.

[1. Piper methysticum.]

{p. 18}

The gods gave him a ghost body and also prepared a hollow stick like bamboo, in which they put food, battle-weapons, and a piece of burning lava for fire.

Not far from Honolulu is a beautiful modern estate with fine roads, lakes, running brooks, and interesting valleys extending back into the mountain range. This is called by the very ancient name Moanalua (two lakes). Near the seacoast of this estate was one of the most noted ghost localities of the islands. The ghosts after wandering over the island Oahu would come to this place to find a way into their real home, the Under-world or Po.

Here was a ghostly breadfruit-tree[1] named Lei-walo, possibly meaning "the eight wreaths" or " the eighth wreath"--the last wreath of leaves from the land of the living which would meet the eyes of the dying.

The ghosts would leap or fly or climb into the branches of this tree, trying to find a rotten branch upon which they could sit until it broke and threw them into the dark sea below.

Maluae climbed up the breadfruit-tree. He found a branch where ghosts were sitting waiting for it to fall. His weight was so much greater than theirs that the branch broke at once, and down they all fell into the land of Po.

He needed merely to taste the food in his hollow

[1. Ulu or Artocarpus incisa.]

{p. 19}

cane to have new life and strength. This he had done when he climbed the tree; thus he had been able to push past the fabled guardians of the pathway of the ghosts in the Upper-world. As he entered the Under-world he again tasted the food of the gods and he felt himself growing stronger and stronger.

He took a magic war-club and a spear out of the cane given by the gods. Ghostly warriors tried to hinder his entrance into the different districts of the dark land. The spirits of dead chiefs challenged him when he passed their homes. Battle after battle was fought. His magic club struck the warriors down, and his spear tossed them aside.

Sometimes he was warmly greeted and aided by ghosts of kindly spirit. Thus he went from place to place, searching for his boy, finding him at last, as the Hawaiians quaintly expressed it, "down in the papa-ku" (the established foundation of Po), choking and suffocating from the

bananas of ghost-land which he was compelled to continually force into his mouth.

The father caught the spirit of the boy and started back toward the Upper-world, but the ghosts surrounded him. They tried to catch him and take the spirit away from him. Again the father partook of the food of the gods. Once more he wielded his war-club, but the hosts of

{p. 20}

enemies were too great. Multitudes arose or, all sides, crushing him by their overwhelming numbers.

At last he raised his magic hollow cane and took the last portion of food. Then he poured out the portion of burning lava which the gods had placed inside. It fell upon the dry floor of the Under-world. The flames dashed into the trees and the shrubs of ghost-land. Fire-holes opened and streams of lava burst out.

Backward fled the multitudes of spirits. The father thrust the spirit of the boy quickly into the empty magic cane and rushed swiftly up to his home-land. He brought the spirit to the body lying in the rest-house and forced it to find again its living home.

Afterward the father and the boy took food to the altars of the gods, and chanted the accustomed prayers heartily and loyally all the rest of their lives.

{p. 21}

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'Drug user has sex with tree, claims he's God and tried to stab cop with badge'

mirror.co.uk

Man 'has sex with tree, claims he is God and tried to stab cop with badge while high'

- 19:16, 16 April 2015
- By Sam Webb , Chris Murphy

According to a Melbourne police report, Crowder, 41, was spotted by witnesses running naked through a Melbourne neighborhood, yelling that he was a god before committing a sexual act on a tree

Accused: Kenneth Crowder

A man who allegedly had sex with a tree, told police officers he was God, shrugged off being tasered twice and tried to stab a cop with his own badge while on powerful drugs has been arrested.

Kenneth Crowder, of Melbourne, Florida, was tripping on flakka, a worrying new drug that authorities say is sweeping the state, police said.

According to a Melbourne police report, Crowder, 41, was spotted by witnesses running naked through a Melbourne neighborhood, yelling that he was a god before committing a sexual act on a tree.

A Melbourne police officer went to the area and confronted Crowder, who was wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt, officials said.

Crowder walked toward the officer in an aggressive manner and identified himself as God, according to police.

The officer used a Taser on Crowder, but he pulled the probes out of his body and continued to advance, it was said.

Crowder was shocked a second time, but he again pulled out the probes and went at the officer with clenched fists, police told TV news station NBC 6.

The officer punched Crowder in the face and a fight ensued, with Crowder saying that he was Thor (a Norse god, or perhaps the superhero) and trying to stab the officer with the officer's badge, police said.

Other officers arrived and helped subdue Crowder.

PA

Erm: Crowder allegedly committed a sex act on a tree. File picture

He was arrested on charges of battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting with violence and assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer.

Flakka is the a variation of synthetic substances known as bath salts and delivers a cheap, powerful high while acting as an amphetamine.

The drug can be snorted, smoked or swallowed and can cause violent behaviour, officials said.

A witness who saw the incident told NBC 6 Crowder appeared to have “superhuman strength”.

Amanda Davenport said: “He kept getting up, he came after the cop and picked him up and threw him.”

Crowder, whose mugshot shows him with a black eye, was booked into the Brevard County Jail Complex.

He later posted bond and was released. In 2011, federal authorities banned a number of the chemicals used in bath salts.

The active ingredient in flakka, however, has not yet been banned.

"We have spoken to some medical professionals here and they are starting to see an increase in its use (in Brevard County)," Melbourne police spokesman Dan Lynch said.

"It's already in South Florida, and we think it's coming here."

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You'll never believe what kind of creature this man keeps as a pet

dailyrecord.co.uk

Man keeps giant leech as a pet - and lets it suck his blood when it gets hungry

- 12:06, 10 April 2015
- By Kara O'Neill

The stomach-churning clip shows the leech attached to its owner's arm as it enjoys a tasty evening meal

Horrifying video of man letting his giant pet LEECH feast on his arm

Most people are happy to settle with a cat or a dog, but this man shares his home with a slightly more bizarre pet - a GIANT leech.

And not only does he let the creature live in his house - he lets it suck his blood too.

In the odd - and slightly sickening - clip, the giant leech has attached itself to its owner's arm as it enjoys a midnight snack.

Wikimedia Yes No - and I certainly wouldn't feed it with my blood!

Giant: The colossal creature enjoys a tasty snack from its owner's arm

As the blood-sucking leech tucks in, the man calmly shines a torch across the colossal creature, which measures approximately the size of his forearm.

It is thought the clip was filmed in Japan, but the exact location is not clear.

When a leech bites, it attaches itself to the skin and will stay there feeding on blood until it is full.

It then drops off its prey to digest.

Wikimedia

Medicinal: Leeches have been used in modern medicine to prevent blood clotting

But contrary to popular belief, most leech species do not feed on human blood, and prefer to feast on small invertebrates which they eat whole.

Leeches have also been used for medicinal purposes, such as plastic and reconstructive surgeries and to prevent blood from clotting.

In recent news, a Chinese hospital discovered a 7cm leech attached to the inside of a boy's throat.

The leech had got into the child's airway after the boy stopped to drink water from a pond on his way home from school.

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Massive plant that waited 80 years to flower is taken down

yahoo.com

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER 17 hours ago

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — An American agave's job is to flower once and then die.

One of the plants that called the University of Michigan home for an unexpectedly long 80 years accomplished the former last year.

On Wednesday, its life came to an end.

Mike Palmer, the horticulture manager at the university's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, used a hand saw to bring down the agave's 20-plus-foot-tall stalk.

"It was time. It's sad. Many people have said to me though they enjoyed the whole flowering that they were anticipating the sadness of its final days," Palmer said after he and some workers carried the fallen stalk away, leaving a stump where it once stood.

Still, "the agave lives on," said Palmer, who added new plants will be grown from its seedlings and eventually sold. Plus, university music professor Michael Gould plans to make a flute from the stalk.

Once the new instrument is created, Gould and a colleague who plays the shakuhachi, or Japanese bamboo flute, plan to perform a concert at the botanical gardens "to give the plant a life again.

"There are instruments that are hundreds and hundreds of years old, so the agave can live on," Gould said.

And a couple getting married this weekend at the botanical gardens have requested a seedling so they can use it as part of their wedding ceremony.

The agave had called Ann Arbor home since 1934. It grew to 28 feet after a rapid growth spurt in the spring of 2014 that preceded its flowering, which ended later in the year. The agave then went into rapid decline, which is normal for the species, Palmer said.

Although it is known as the century plant, the American agave typically lives up to 30 to 35 years. Palmer, who cared for the plant during the past 15 years, said he doesn't know why it took this agave so long to bloom.

Regardless, "it was time to take it down. It was the natural process for the agave to die after it flowers and sets seeds," he said.

"We have seedlings now, so they will create the circle of life."

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May 4 hearing set in Clark cannibalism case

Charlie White , @c_write

courier-journal.com

IMG_-LCJBrd2_09-21-2014__1_1_O99C24DS.jpg_20141210.jpg

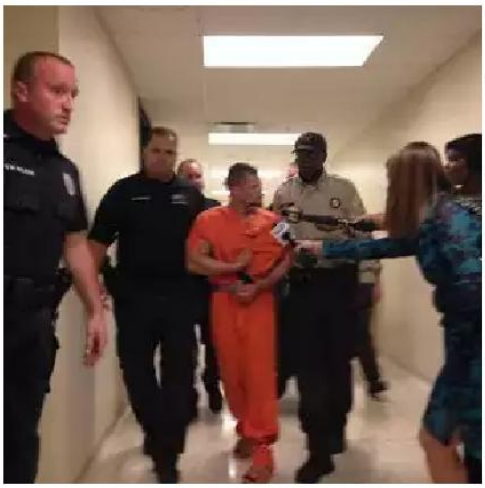
Joseph Oberhansley(Photo: File)

Editor's note: This story contains graphic and disturbing material.

Attorneys for confessed cannibal Joseph Oberhansley have asked a judge to move the high-profile case to another county and are pleading for Oberhansley to be removed from isolation and placed in general population.

Clark County Circuit Judge Vicki Carmichael has not yet decided when to hear arguments on those issues, but on Tuesday ordered a May 4 hearing about prosecutor Jeremy Mull's request to add rape as an aggravating charge for jurors to consider in a capital punishment phase, if he is found guilty of murdering his 46-year-old former girlfriend, Tammy Jo Blanton.

Mull's motion to amend the charges to include rape stems from recently returned Indiana state laboratory results on Blanton's body. Rape, burglary and dismemberment are among the required aggravating circumstances under Indiana law for seeking capital punishment.



THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Confessed Clark cannibal told he faces death

Juries in Indiana are not allowed to recommend a death sentence or life without parole unless they unanimously agree that the state has proved at least one alleged aggravating circumstance beyond a reasonable doubt, according to state law.

Parties in the case also have agreed to submit a scheduling order by April 30, including a trial date.

Oberhansley, 34, confessed to breaking into Blanton's house on Sept. 11, according to sworn affidavits from Jeffersonville police interviews.

He also confessed to killing her with a knife, then using an electric jigsaw to cut open her skull before eating parts of her brain, heart and a lung, according to a probable-cause affidavit filed Sept. 15 by Jeffersonville police Detective Todd Hollis.

A crime-scene cleanup contractor told police he was wiping the bathroom floor Sept. 12 when he spotted a bloodied jigsaw blade partially underneath a trash can, according to court records.

During Oberhansley's initial hearing on Sept. 15, the court entered an initial denial plea on his behalf.

Oberhansley also told Carmichael that police had the wrong man, his name was "Zeus Brown" and he denied knowing his age or citizenship, The Courier-Journal reported.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Timeline of suspect in cannibalism case

On Sept. 11, Jeffersonville Police responded twice to Blanton's home in the 300 block of Locust Street near downtown.

Blanton initially called 911 about 3 a.m., saying her ex-boyfriend was outside and refused to leave. She told police when they arrived that she had broken up with Oberhansley and the locks had been changed, according to the affidavit from Hollis.

Police told Oberhansley to leave, and officers made sure he did after Blanton talked with him outside. Then about seven hours later, police received a call from Sabrina Hall, one of Blanton's co-workers, who was concerned that she hadn't shown up at work.

At Blanton's home, police found the rear door had been forced open. Blanton's dismembered body was found in the bathtub, covered by a tent and surrounded by pools of blood in the tub and on the floor.

"The front of the victim's skull appeared to have been crushed and brain tissue appeared scattered around the bathtub," the affidavit states.

Audio from the parole hearing in Utah for Oberhansley while he was jailed for the murder of girlfriend Sabrina Elder.

In 1998, Oberhansley was convicted of killing another former girlfriend in Utah. He served 14 years before being released in 2012.

Utah discharged him from parole on July 23, and on July 31, Oberhansley's then-girlfriend Blanton posted $500 bond for him on charges of criminal recklessness and resisting law enforcement stemming from a slow-speed car chase that crossed the Kentucky state line, The Courier-Journal previously reported.

Longtime Clark County Prosecutor Steve Stewart filed his intent to seek the death penalty against Oberhansley before retiring in December.

Reporter Charlie White can be reached at (812) 949-4026 or on Twitter @c_write.

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Mayor is sued after he blows budget on a giant metal Transformer robot

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk
Friday 10 Apr 2015 10:51 am

http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/10/mayor-is-sued-after-he-blows-budget-on-a-giant-metal-transformer-5143302/

'What robot is more handsome?' asked Mayor Melih Gökçek as he unveiled a 20-foot-tall Transformer this month.

While the robot in the city of Ankara is undeniably a beauty, some taxpayers are furious about what they see as an enormous waste of public money.

They're clearly not Transformers fans.

After controversy blew up in local media, Mayor Gökçek simply replied, 'Respect

the robot.'

Gökçek is now being sued by the Turkish Union of Engineers and Architects' Chambers, who describe the robot (used to promote a new local amusement park) as a 'monstrosity'.

'The money spent for the robot statues, which will be built for the Ankapark project and were referred to by Gökçek as his "prestige project," belongs to the inhabitants [of the city]. We filed a lawsuit,' saidTezcan Karakuş Canda of the Turkish Union of Engineers and Architects' Chambers.

British Library, Harley MS 4751, Folio 40r

Latin name: Caladrius

Other names: Caladres, Caladrio, Calandre, Calandrius, Calatrius, Caradrius, Charadrius, Kaladrius, Kalandria

A bird which can tell if a sick man will die, and can cure disease

General Attributes

The caladrius is an all-white bird that lives in the king's house. If it looks into the face of a sick man, it means that he will live, but if the caladrius looks away, the sick man will die of his illness. To cure the sick man, the caladrius looks at him, and drawing the sickness into itself, the bird flies up toward the sun, where the disease is burned up and destroyed. The caladrius is an unclean bird which must not be eaten.

Allegory/Moral

The caladrius represents Christ, who is pure white without a trace of blackness of sin. Because the Jews did not believe, Christ turned his face from them and toward the Gentiles, taking away and carrying sins to the cross. Christ turns away from the unrepentant and casts them off; but those to whom he turns his face, he makes whole again.

Sources (chronological order)

Plutarch [c. 80 CE] (*Symposiacon*, book v, prob. 7,

Druce translation): ... we know how often those who suffer from jaundice are healed by looking at the bird charadrius. This small animal seems to be endowed with such a nature and character, that it violently attracts to itself the disease, which slips out of the body of the sick man into its own, and draws off from his eyes as it were a stream of moisture. And this is the reason why the charadrius cannot endure to look at jaundiced persons nor help them at all, but turns itself away with closed eyes; not because it grudges the use of the remedy which is sought from it, as some consider, but because it might be wounded as by a blow.

Aelian [3rd century CE] (*De natura animalium*, Book xvii, chapter 13,

Druce translation): Now this is the natural power of the charadrius, which by Zeus it is not right to despise. If a man has his body full of jaundice and then looks keenly at the bird, and the bird looks back at him very inflexibly, as though being made angry with him in return, then this mutual gaze cures the man of the aforesaid complaint.

Philippe de Thaon [12th century CE] (*Bestiaire*,

Druce translation): Caladrius is the name of a bird, which we find without any doubt to be entirely white: it is shaped as a seagull; in the book of Deuteronomy it is said that it must not be eaten; that very dear is the bird. And Physiologus says that the caladrius ought to be in the court of a king, and about one thing is learned. If a man should have his eyes running or rolling the caladrius has such a nature that it can

cure the eyes by the divine virtue which it possesses; it is in its thigh, if one applies it; such virtue has the thigh of the caladrius. The bird has a great bone in its thigh; if the man who is blind has the marrow of it, and will anoint his eyes, he will immediately recover (his sight).

Honorius d'Autun [12th century CE] (*Speculum Ecclesiae*,

Druce translation): But if he (the sick man) is going to live, it turns and fixes its gaze intently upon him, / With wide open mouth it drinks, as it were, his sickness out of him, / And flies up on high to the rays of the sun; / The sickness which has been drunk in sweats out of it, / The sick man exults in his recovery. / But turning his face to us, he (Christ) recalled us from death, / And himself bore our infirmities, submitting to the Cross; / And the bloody sweat dripped from him, / Then clothed in our flesh he rose into the highest heavens to the Father, / And granted Salvation for ever to all the faithful.

Suidas [12th century CE] (*Lexicon*,

Druce translation): They say that this is a disease [jaundice] producing paleness, which arises from anger, so that it makes the eyes of those who are overpowered by it pale and sometimes black, like (the eyes) of kites, from which also it takes its name. They say too "that those who suffer from jaundice are easily cured by looking at a bird, the charadrius." The charadrius is a bird of such nature that if those who are suffering from jaundice look at it, as report goes, they more easily get rid of that disease. For which reason also the sellers (of the bird) hide it, lest those who are suffering from jaundice should be cured for nothing. "Why, he is hiding it: like a man with a charadrius to sell," as Hipponax says; whence has arisen the proverb: "Imitating the charadrius," said of those who hide anything. [quoting Euphronius]: Since the gaze of the charadrius alleviates the jaundice, the sellers of it conceal the bird, lest any man, before buying one, may look at it as he passes and get cured, and he adds, "Others, however, say that it is not those who look at the charadrius who are cured of the jaundice, but those who eat it."

Hugh of Fouilloy [12th century CE] (*De avibus*,

Druce translation): About the charadrius or charadrus, a maritime bird. It may be clearly so named, because Theodorus Gaza calls it charadrius. Suidas (calls it) charadrus, who tells us that it is a maritime bird great and greedy, and possessed of such power that if those afflicted with jaundice gaze at it, they are freed (from their complaint), as Pliny has asserted about the bird (called) "icterus," perhaps the same and so called from the cures which it effects.

Alexander Neckam [13th century CE] (*De laudibus divinae Sapientiae*,

Druce translation): With propitious gaze the caladrius looks at the sick man, / When Lachesis twists her thread with favouring hand. / With eyes averted it raises a warning cry of sorrow / As often as it perceives the day of death approaching. / Its flesh restores the bright keenness of vision which has grown dim. / The colour of its wings is said to be milk-white.

British Library MS Royal 12 F xiii [13th century CE] (Rochester Bestiary,

Druce translation): The Caladrius or Caradrius, as the Natural Philosopher [Physiologus] says, is all white like the swan, and has a long neck. The dung of its inside cures blindness [*caliginem oculorum*]. This bird is found in the courts of kings. If anyone is ill, by means of this caladrius it can be found out if he will live or die. For if the man is destined to die, it turns its face away from him, and by this sign people know that he is going to die. If he is destined to live, it directs itself towards his face, and as though it would take all the illness of the man upon itself, it flies into the air towards the sun, burning up as it were his infirmity and dispersing it; and so the sick man is cured. The caladrius is a type of our Saviour. For he is all white, because he has committed no sin, neither is there any guile found in his mouth. But Christ coming down from heaven turned his face away from the Jews, because of their unbelief, and turned to us Gentiles, bearing our infirmities. ... But the caladrius is reckoned, in Leviticus, among the unclean birds which are forbidden to be eaten and imitated. And yet it signifies Christ. For it is unclean by virtue

of that property of its nature through which it, having a long neck, seeks food for itself out of the very bowels of the earth. And therefore through that property it typifies the contemplative man, who has an appearance of religion, who reads about heavenly things, but whose life is earthly, who in this matter should not be copied. But by that property which it has, of turning itself away from those who are about to die, and conversely towards those who will live, and flying upwards towards the sun, it signifies Christ; just as the lion and eagle, though they are unclean according to the law, yet are types of Christ by reason of some quality of their own. For the lion is king of beasts, and the eagle king of flying fowl, and Christ is king of all the faithful.

British Library Sloane MS 278 [13th century CE] (*Aviarium / Dicta Chrysostomi*,

Druce translation): If (the sick man) is destined to get better and be cured, the caladrius addresses itself intently to him, and approaching, puts its beak upon the man's mouth, and by its breathing draws out all the man's sickness into itself, and flying into the air towards the sun, burns up his sickness, and disperses it, and the sick man is cured.

British Library Royal MS 19 D. i [14th century CE] (*History of Alexander the Great*,

Druce translation): From there they went to the palace of king Xerxes. And Alexander found in this palace many marvels, and among other things he found birds of the size of doves which are called "salandres," which prophesy about a sick person, if he is going to die or not, or to live. For if it so happens that it looks at the sick man in the face, he must live, and if it turns the other way he will surely die. These birds, according to certain wise philosophers, have received this virtue from our Lord, that in looking as they do they receive into themselves the illness of the sick man. And they carry it on high to the fire which is in the air, to the fourth element which consumes all sicknesses.

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Meet the 'Gobfather' dad and daughter who have the world's widest tongues

- 14:03, 16 April 2015
- By Andrew Hewitt

Byron Schlenker makes it into Guinness Book of World Records for having 8.6cm wide tongue which is 2cm wider than an iPhone 6

Meet the 'Gobfather' and his daughter Emily who have the world's widest tongues

A dad and daughter have become overnight celebrities - for having the world's widest tongues.

Byron Schlenker was gobsmacked to discover he had has made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for the jaw-dropping feat.

His tongue measures a whopping 8.6cm across the same width as a beer mat and 2cm wider than an iPhone 6.

And daughter Emily 14, is not far behind at 7.3cm - the widest female tongue in the world.

Byron, 47, who has now been nicknamed the Gobfather, only discovered his rare gift when he picked up a copy of the Guinness Book of World Records while helping Emily with a school project at the library.

The father-of-thre said: "Turning the page I saw that the world's widest tongue was a guy from Australia at 7.9cm.

"On the way home I started thinking my tongue is pretty wide, I wonder how wide it is?"

Byron measured his tongue and several months later the organisation crowned him and Emily as having the world's widest male and female tongue, making them something of a celebrity in their hometown of Syracuse, New York, USA.

Byron added: "It is neat to see peoples' responses on Facebook and things like that."

Emily said: "I really didn't want anything to do with at first but I measured my tongue and I found out it was wider.

"It does feel a little wird. It's something that doesn't happen every day."

Meet the Chinese Lumberjack Who Slept With an Alien

Michael Meyer Become a fan author of In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China

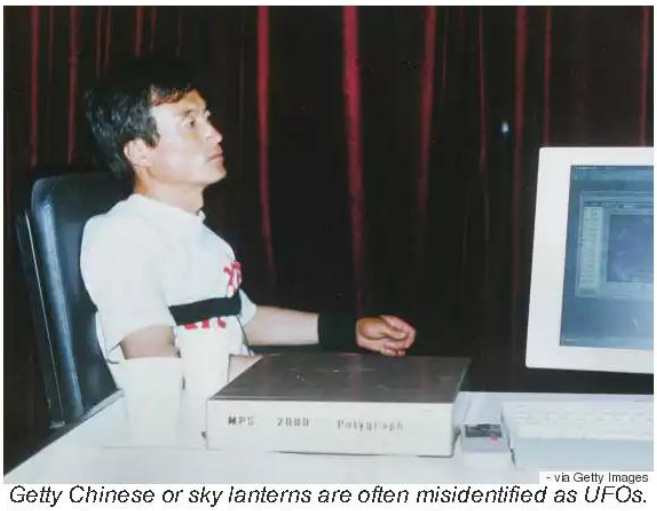
huffingtonpost.com

Posted: 04/06/2015 8:09 pm EDT Updated: 04/06/2015 8:59 pm EDT

Chien-Min Chung

"If you can't find me," Meng Zhaoguo said over a cell phone whose signal faded from its isolation, "Just head to the last house on the logging commune lane. Or ask anyone who's around." Everyone knows the first Chinese person to allegedly be abducted by aliens.

With its surging economy, China is summiting once-unseen heights in world rankings: millions of English speakers, almost the most millionaires and actually the least frugal tourists. Yet despite being slightly larger in area than the United States with four times as many people, China trails far behind when it comes to visitors from outer space. To date, only one Chinese person -- lumberjack Meng Zhaoguo -- claims to have slept with one.



- via Getty Images

Getty Chinese or sky lanterns are often misidentified as UFOs. These three were part of a large group of lanterns that was the main event of the 2013 Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival in Taiwan on Feb. 24, 2013.

Meng Zhaoguo, a rural worker from northeast China's Wuchang city, taking a lie detector test in Beijing.

I first visited Meng at his home on the Red Flag Logging Commune, set among the remains of a forest in China's far northeast, an area historically known as Manchuria. Chinese characterize Northeasterners as big-hearted, industrious and sometimes a bit touched in the head. So it was not a shock when the nation's first person claiming interstellar relations came from here. In 2003, I traveled over a winding, ice-covered, one-lane road through the forest to meet him.

On the commune, Meng lived in a two-room timber frame house he had built with his own

hands. Bare yellow light bulbs dropped from the ceiling, and there was no phone -- or cell reception. But a big-screen Sony television filled one end of the room.

"Out here, it only picks up two channels," he said. "So it's a waste of money, but I didn't buy it. A businessman brought it, after he heard about my story." Another visitor, from Malaysia, had brought him a cow. "I sold that," Meng told me. "Cows cost money to take care of. What am I going to do with a cow out here?"

We stepped outside, boots crunching snow, and faced the Dragon Mountains, veiled in purple mist as the day's light faded. Meng said that on a night much like this in 1994, he saw a metallic glint shimmer off those peaks.

"I thought a helicopter had crashed, so I set out to scavenge for scrap." He made it to the lip of a valley, spying the wreckage in the distance, when "*Foom!* Something hit me square in the forehead and knocked me out."

He awoke at home, he told me, with no memory of how he got there. A few nights later he woke to find himself floating above his bed. As his wife slumbered beneath him, a 10-foot-tall, 6-fingered alien woman with thighs coated in braided hair straddled his waist. Meng and the alien copulated for 40 minutes.

"She then disappeared through the wall and I floated back down to bed. She left me with this." He undid his trousers to reveal a two-inch-long jagged mark that he insisted bore only a coincidental resemblance to a scar resulting from a slipped stroke of a saw.

I asked him to draw the creature, and he took my pen and tore off a sheet from a roll of rough, unbleached paper. To my surprise, I recognized the alien. As he made tiny x's on the alien's inner thighs, I realized Meng was sketching a hairy cousin of the Michelin Man. His smiling, puffy white face waved from atop an auto repair shop at the base of Red Flag Logging Commune. I thought of that, and the empty crates of Five Star beer stacked just outside Meng's front door, and the remote loneliness of a Northeast winter.

But Meng told the story calmly, not in a desperate or pleading tone, cajoling the listener to believe. I kept my deductions internal, and he suggested we go outside with his kids and light the fireworks I had brought for them. That night I slept fitfully on Meng's bed, while he took the couch.

"'In 60 years, on a distant planet, the son of a Chinese peasant will be born.'"

In China, the government monitors faith in anything but the Communist Party, but an expression of belief in extraterrestrials is permitted, as it falls under the purview of astronomy, and the "scientific socialism" the party supports. A UFOlogy journal has a circulation of 400,000, and the UFO associations across China boast a collective 50,000 members. China UFO Research Center has held annual conferences before splintering -- as organized groups of believers tend to do -- into rival factions. The president of the Beijing branch is a retired foreign ministry official who, after seeing a UFO, believes aliens live among us.

After Meng's story circulated among enthusiasts, the media came calling, leading to his appearance in national newspapers and on television. He was even the subject of a debated Wikipedia page, which listed different versions of his story, including being taken to the aliens' home planet of Jupiter, and "ongoing harassment" from the extraterrestrials.

"Journalists look for discrepancies in my story," he told me the next morning at his house. "I get tired of telling it. In the end, I'm just a peasant."

Meng added that a month after the alien had visited him, he again awoke to find his body passing through the world map hanging over his bed. He levitated through the stratosphere and into a spaceship, where aliens circled him.

"They said in Chinese, but with a heavy accent so it was hard for me to understand at first, that they were refugees. Like me, they wanted to escape their former lives, so they left their dying home."

That echoed the tales of many Chinese migrants, including Meng's desire to move his family off the defunct Red Flag Logging Commune.

Meng asked to see his alien paramour, the one with braided hair on her inner thighs.

"'Impossible,' they replied. But then they said something that made me hopeful. 'In 60 years, on a distant planet, the son of a Chinese peasant will be born.'"

This was a stroke of genius: Meng had introduced Chinese class-consciousness to outer space. (He also made sure few people who heard his tale today would be around to see its proof). And while my Northeastern-born wife declared his story a lesson in the "Art of Northeastern Bullshitting," the story was also an example of self-invention, transporting Meng, his wife and children from the last house on a logging commune lane to a metropolitan campus after a university official reached out and offered him a job.

"Humans, if we have never seen something with our own eyes, naturally doubt that it exists, or that life could be that way. I was the first to be brave enough to say: 'I saw that.'"

When I sought him out there when researching my book -- "In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China" -- in Harbin city a decade later, he again told me to head to the last building on the lane, or just ask anyone where he was. Everyone knew the first Chinese person to be abducted by aliens.

There he stood, in full grin. "I am very happy to work here," he said. "It's quiet. I'm in charge of the boiler and watch the steam pipes." It was a better job than felling trees, which were now protected. His coworkers at Red Flag Logging Commune had either left or stayed to farm soybeans.

Meng wore a clean white tunic, slacks and loafers, with short black hair pushed neatly to the side. He looked thinner, healthier and just as earnest as before. But he was tired of retelling what became known as the "Meng Zhaoguo Incident." Talking with him is how I imagined it

would be to interview a former adult film star embarrassed about his past. "When students say they recognize me from television," he said, "I tell them that was someone else who looks like me."

But his notoriety had landed this job.

"A friend told me about it, and when I came for the interview, the boss had seen me on the news," he said. "The college provides an apartment with heating, my wife and daughter are working on campus as well, and my son attends a good Harbin middle school. He's studying English. Life is better for him here than in the forest."

When he retold the tale over lunch in Harbin, only one detail had changed: "I asked the aliens if I would see my child," he added. "They said yes. But they would not tell me where."

I made a joke but Meng didn't laugh.

"Once, humans believed that the earth was flat," he said. "Even a decade ago, people would not believe that a cell phone could work. Humans, if we have never seen something with our own eyes, naturally doubt that it exists, or that life could be that way. I was the first to be brave enough to say: 'I saw that.'

"But you know," Meng said, nodding collegially. He looked directly into my glasses, which in the bright northeast sunlight reflected his own face, and concluded: "When you live up here, you see strange phenomena all the time."

Michael Meyer is the author of "In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China."

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Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a...giant grasshopper?

mirror.co.uk

Meet the real-life superhero who dresses up as a giant grasshopper to hunt for drink-drivers

- 16:35, 17 April 2015
- By Kara O'Neill

Environmentalist artist, Priest Shinjiro Kumagai, is supported by police and funded by a Buddhist preacher

Meet Shinjiro Kumagai a real life grasshopper superhero

A real life superhero dressed as a giant grasshopper has taken to the streets of Japan to track down drink drivers.

By day, mild-mannered environmental artist, Priest Shinjiro Kumagai, makes statues out of old aluminium cans in the city of Kitakyushu, Japan.

But after finishing his day job, he dresses up as Japanese sci-fi TV hero Kamen Rider 1 and patrols the streets on a Cyclone motorbike to hunt down drunks.

Supported by the police and wearing an armband identifying him as an official drink-drive patrolman, Kumagai is funded by local Buddhist Priest Fukumitsu, the head of the Gokurakuji Temple.

CEN

Grasshopper man: Shinjiro Kumagai dresses up as Japanese sci-fi TV hero to hunt down drink-drivers

Referring to his benefactor, Kumagai said: "He is a real fan of Kamen Rider 1 and has been collecting memorabilia for 20 years.

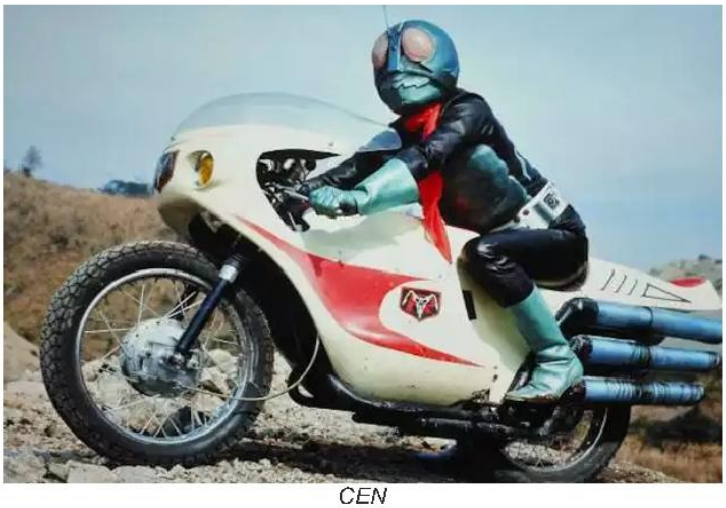
"So when he heard about what I was doing he jumped at the chance to help."

In the TV show, which ran from 1971 to 1973 and was later adapted into a comic book, the superhero team Kamen Riders (which means literally Masked Riders) fight

against an evil terrorist group threatening the world.

Now locals are thrilled to see the helmeted crusader patrolling their streets.

Shopkeeper Kageki Umeta, 43, said: "He is doing a very good job.



CEN

Popular: The vigilante grasshopper is a hit with the locals

"On one hand it is quite geeky and comical although the kids love to see him riding around.

"Kamen Rider is a big thing in Japan.

"But on the other he is actually raising awareness of the dangers of drink driving and is catching people at it who he then reports to the police.

"Every city should have a Kamen Rider."

And Kumagai isn't the first man to don a superhero costume to protect the streets - American have their own masked vigilantes too.

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Mexican soldiers find suspected drug tunnel entrance hidden inside wardrobe

foxnews.com

Published April 08, 2015
FoxNews.com

April 7, 2015: A policeman checks the access to a suspected drug tunnel under construction, which is located inside a wardrobe, during a media tour by Mexican Army in Tijuana. (Reuters)

April 7, 2015: Soldiers stand guard outside a house, where a suspected drug tunnel under construction was located, during a media tour by Mexican Army in Tijuana. (Reuters)

Mexican soldiers arrested nine people Tuesday after finding a suspected drug tunnel underneath a house in Tijuana.

The entrance to the tunnel was hidden inside a wardrobe in a house next to a Mexican Air Force installation and a regional federal police facility, Reuters reports.

The tunnel was wired with lights and extended north about 500 feet, but it was not believed to have entered American soil, according to Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Soldiers caught the suspects as they tried to flee the construction site and seized a truck allegedly being used to carry dirt away, the U-T San Diego reports.

April 7, 2015: A makeshift cart with containers is seen at a suspected drug tunnel under construction during a media tour by Mexican Army in Tijuana. (Reuters)

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MH370 Search Finds Uncharted Shipwreck in Indian Ocean

nbcnews.com

The painstaking search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has finally found wreckage on the ocean floor — just not the wreckage it was looking for.

The Australian government, which is coordinating the multi-million-dollar search, announced Wednesday it had found a previously uncharted shipwreck almost 13,000 feet below the surface of the Indian Ocean.

Investigators' hopes were raised when the Fugro Equator, one of the ships tasked with looking for the aircraft, detected "a cluster of small sonar contacts," according to an update from the Australian government's Joint Agency Coordination Center.

RELATED: What a Flight Simulator Can Tell Us About MH370

Although analysis found these findings were "of potential interest, but unlikely to be related to MH370," they could not be ruled out entirely. A second ship, the Fugro Supporter, was diverted to the area to scan the seabed with an unmanned submarine.

FUGRO / ATSB

"Analysis of the images this week revealed that the debris was indeed man-made, but indicated that it was actually the wreck of a ship," the JACC said. "This wreck is previously uncharted and the imagery will be provided to expert marine archaeologists for possible identification."

The search for MH370 has found no trace of the plane more than 14 months after it disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. If the current 23,000 square mile search area in the Indian Ocean throws up no results by the end of May, it will be doubled in size, officials announced last month. That would mean the operation could take another year.

The search area for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 will be doubled if the wreckage of the missing jet is not found by the end of next month, nations leading the search said Thursday.

The extended search zone — covering 46,000 square miles, an area the size of Pennsylvania — could take a year to cover because of the upcoming winter weather, officials from Australia, Malaysia and China said.

The underwater search of a 23,000 square mile patch of the southern Indian Ocean, which experts believe is the plane's most likely resting place, will likely be finished next month but

there is still no sign of the Boeing 777.

"Should the aircraft not be found within the current search area, ministers agreed to extend the search by an additional 60,000 square kilometers to bring the search area to 120,000 square kilometers and thereby cover the entire highest probability area identified by expert analysis," Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Chinese Transport Minister Yang Chuantang announced in a joint statement.

"Ministers recognize the additional search area may take up to a year to complete given the adverse weather conditions in the upcoming winter months. Upon completion of the additional 60,000 square kilometers, all high probability search areas would have been covered."

The aircraft disappeared on March 8, 2014 with 239 passengers and crew en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Not a single piece of the jet has been found.

"Ministers remain committed to bring closure and some peace to the families and loved ones of those on board," the statement added.

- David Wyllie and Alastair Jamieson

First published April 16th 2015, 1:43 am

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Giggles the pig running for mayor of Flint, Michigan

upi.com

Giggles the pig running for mayor of Flint, Michigan

Michael Ewing, owner of Giggles the pig, said the campaign is aiming to bring transparency to the write-in only mayoral race.

By Ben Hooper | May 7, 2015 at 3:47 PM

FLINT, Mich., May 7 (UPI) -- A Michigan pig named Giggles is "putting the pork back in government" by running for mayor of Flint.

Michael Ewing, a defense attorney and owner of 1-year-old pet pig Giggles, launched the porker's campaign for Flint mayor with a Facebook group listing Giggles' qualifications.

The group says Giggles has "no criminal history," "has never been financially irresponsible," "will take no money from special interests," "supports police" and "has never missed an important deadline."

The campaign takes advantage of the city's announcement that the mayoral primary ballot would be write-in only after the city clerk gave candidates the wrong deadline for turning in their nominating petitions and signatures.

Ewing said Giggle's campaign has a serious goal: He wants to bring public attention and transparency to the race.

"If we elect someone who is not up to the challenge, we'll be right back to the state of Michigan emergency manager again," Ewing told Mlive.com.

Karen Weaver, a candidate opposing incumbent Mayor Dayne Walling, called the pig's campaign a "mockery of the democratic process."

Mayoral candidate Eric Mays also voiced concerns about Giggles' qualifications.

"Does the pig know about economic development?" Mays asked. "Does a pig know about quality water?"

There are questions about whether Giggles would legally be allowed to serve as mayor if elected -- the city charter requires the mayor to be a registered voter in Flint.

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Millions in WWII silver reclaimed from deep ocean - CNN.com

By Steve Almasy, CNN
2015-04-15T22:55:13Z

cnn.com

<*img alt="In November 1942, the SS City of Cairo was sunk by a German U-boat while carrying 100 tons of silver." class="media__image" src="http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnnnext/dam/assets/150415170824-01-dos-silver-coins-0415-super-169.jpg"*>

1 of 8
8 photos

- The ship was sunk in 1942 hundreds of miles of the coast of South America
- A British company says the salvage operation occurred at a world record depth
- The torpedoing is the subject of the book "Goodnight, sorry for sinking you"

(CNN)It took more than seven decades, but England finally got its delivery of tons of silver coins.

For most of those years, the money was deep at the bottom of the Atlantic, the monetary casualty of a cruel World War II sinking.

In November 1942, the unguarded SS City of Cairo was sunk by a German U-boat while carrying 296 civilians and cargo that included 100 tons of silver.

The vessel sunk to more than 16,800 feet under the surface (5,150 meters) where it went undiscovered until 2011 when Deep Ocean Search decided to go looking for it.

The sinking was the stuff of legend. The City of Cairo was bringing silver rupees from India to England as part of the war effort. After a stop in Brazil, two torpedos sank the ship in the Atlantic.

After the ship went under, the U-boat reportedly surfaced and the captain said to the survivors in lifeboats: "Goodnight, sorry for sinking you." The captain's lament is the title of a book about the event.

Only a handful of people died as the ship sank but about 100 more passed away during the desperate attempt of the six boats to make it to land, which was hundreds of miles away.

When the last of the lifeboats was found 51 days later, all but two people in it had died.

Deep Ocean Search said in a news release that during the 2011 search it located an unnatural object on radar. A sub found the City of Cairo split into two parts, buried by silt.

"Under contract to the UK Ministry of Transport, DOS recovered several tens of tons of silver coins from a depth of (5,150 meters)," the company said. The depth is a world record, the company claimed.

Other deep-water operations reported in the media that are close to this depth include the 1987 search for the wreck of a South African Airways plane at 16,000 feet (4,700 meters) and the discovery of the SS Gairsoppa at about 15,400 feet (4,800 meters) in the North Atlantic in 2011.

The BBC reported the City of Cairo salvage operation was completed in September 2013, but the British government made the company keep it secret until this week.

The coins were melted and the silver sold, the BBC reported. Deep Ocean Search got a percentage of the sale, and the UK Treasury the rest, according to the BBC.

At today's rates, 100 tons of silver would be worth about $50 million.

CNN's Jessica King contributed to this report.

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Milwaukee Paranormal Conference Brings the Weird this June cultofweird.com

By Charlie Hintz on April 7, 2015

The inaugural Milwaukee Paranormal Conference will feature speakers, panels and more in the fields of paranormal investigation, cryptozoology, ufology and folklore.

Milwaukee Paranormal Conference will be held at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center

Milwaukee Paranormal Conference will be held June 6th, 2015 at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center on Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee Paranormal Conference Details

Help spread the word: **Click here to tweet it!**

Date: June 6th, 2015
Time: 12pm-7pm
Location: Irish Cultural & Heritage Center
2133 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 (Get Directions)
Cost: FREE

The great state of Wisconsin is not only home to the Cult of Weird world headquarters, it is also full of legendary weirdness. The backwoods of the dairy state have spawned grave-robbing cannibal killers, horrific creatures and some of the most bizarre hauntings ever recorded. Now, author Tea Krulos is bringing it all together for the first time for the Milwaukee Paranormal Conference on June 6th, 2015.

Krulos, whose new book *Monster Hunters: On the Trail With Ghost Hunters, Bigfooters, Ufologists, and Other Paranormal Investigators* will debut at the conference, decided that rather than having a standard book release, he would put together an entire day filled with presentations on the paranormal, including guest speakers, panels, film screenings, vendors and more. Get your photo taken with Bigfoot!

Be sure to drop by the Cult of Weird table in the vendor hall to say hi!

Milwaukee Paranormal Conference Speakers

- **Donald R. Schmitt**, expert on UFOs and the Roswell Crash
- **Linda S. Godfrey**, author of *Weird Wisconsin* and many more
- **Noah Leigh**, founder and lead investigator, Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee
- **Melissa Tanner**, founder and lead investigator, TnT Paranormal Investigations
- **Allison Jornlin**, ghost historian and proprietor of Milwaukee Ghosts Tours &

Investigations

- **Tea Krulos**, author of *Monster Hunters*
- **Marc Eaton**, professor of sociology, Ripon College
- **J. Nathan Couch**, author of *Goatman: Flesh or Folklore?*
- **Jim Sherman**, Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (as seen on Finding Bigfoot)
- **Nick Roesler**, author of *In Focus: Photographic Evidence of Unconventional Flying Objects*
- **Mark O'Connell**, biographer of Dr. J.Allen Hynek and MUFON Chief Investigator for Wisconsin

Documentary Screenings

- Echoes of the Past (2015) from director David Gloyd
- PIM: A Paranormal Documentary (2015) from director Bradley James Kroll

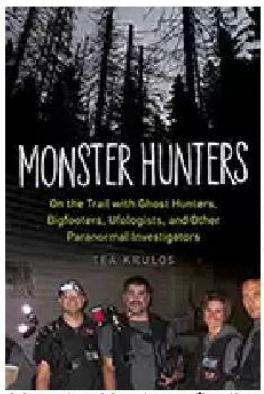
Panels

- Tea Krulos hosts the "Best Evidence Ever!" panel w/ Ursula Bielski, Jim Sherman, and Nicholas Roesler
- "Skepticism and Dealing with Clients" with paranormal team leaders Noah Leigh (Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee), Melissa Tanner (TnT Paranormal), and Valerie Kedrowski (Stevens Point Paranormal). Moderated by Damien Jones of Podcast of the Century.

After con events include a Wisconsin Ave. bus tour with Milwaukee Ghosts-Tours & Investigations, an investigation of the Historic Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear with Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee, and the official after party at Milwaukee's haunted Shaker's Cigar Bar. Hangman Tours will also offer a variety of tours throughout the evening, including Shaker's and other spots in the downtown area.

For more info go to milwaukeeparacon.com

Milwaukee Paranormal Conference



Monster Hunters: On the Trail With Ghost Hunters, Bigfooters, Ufologists, and Other Paranormal Investigators

Do ghosts exist? What about Bigfoot or Skinwalkers? And how will we ever know? Journalist Tea Krulos spent more than a year traveling nationwide to meet individuals who have made it their life's passion to hunt down evidence of entities that they believe exist but that others might shrug off as nothing more than myths, fairy tales, or the products of overactive imaginations. Without taking sides in the debate, Krulos joins these believers in the field, exploring haunted houses, trekking through creepy forests, and scanning skies and lakes as they collect data on the unknown poltergeists, chupacabras, Skunk Apes (Bigfoot's stinky cousins), and West

Virginia's Mothman. Along the way, he meets a diverse cast of characters—true believers, skeptics, and hoaxers—from the credible to the quirky, and has a couple of hair-raising encounters that make him second-guess his own beliefs.

About Charlie Hintz

Cult of Weird founder and curator of the bizarre. Send weird news, photos and videos to: info@cultofweird.com Follow on: Facebook | Twitter | Pinterest | Google+

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Moroccan Woman Killed During Session of Exorcism

Published February 28, 2015 | 10:31 am

moroccoworldnews.com

Moroccan Woman Killed During Session of Exorcism

Rabat- ***A woman, who, according to her relatives, is "possessed by the devil," was killed on Friday, following continuous sessions of exorcism performed by a "fqih" (exorcist) in Douar Beni Salah in the Tetouan region of Morocco.***

The mentally ill woman in her forties, who is a mother of eight, decided to seek the aid of a fqih in her town.

Sadly, the poor woman could not withstand the continuous sessions of torture by the exorcist – believed to expel jinns (demons) from the allegedly possessed woman.

To cast out the evil spirit from her body, the Fqih loudly recited incantations and passages from the Koran, the holy book of Islam. With the help of four of his assistants, the Fqih hit her with a stick all over her body in order to "force the evil spirit" to leave her.

The fqih and his assistants were reportedly arrested and an investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of the death.

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Mother who gave birth to her own brother and sister: An extraordinary story raising profound questions about surrogacy and the future of the family

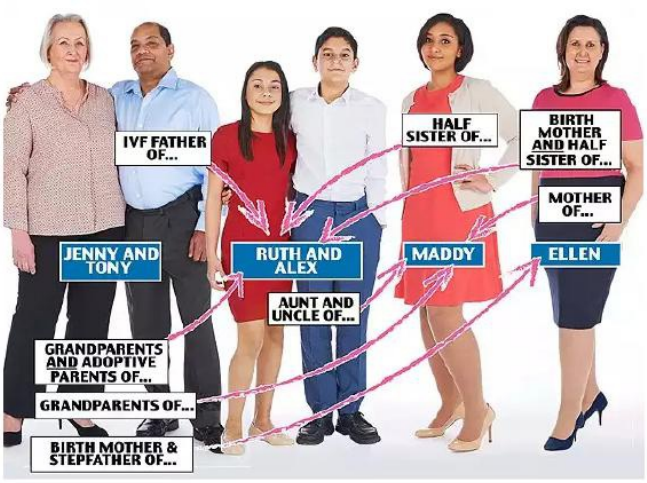
- **Ellen Bown has had three children, but only one is her 'official' daughter**
- **She was a surrogate for her mother, Jenny, and stepfather, Tony**
- **Twins Alex and Ruth are biologically her children and legally her siblings**
- **Ellen's daughter Maddy is both half-sister and niece to the twins**

By Sarah Rainey For Daily Mail

The photograph, now faded and creased, shows three happy, chubby faces staring out. Twin babies are snuggled up on a sofa beside a smiling girl with tumbling black curls.

The image is the treasured possession of Maddy Bown, the older child in the picture, and it's one she keeps in her purse at all times. Maddy is now 17, while the twins — Alex and Ruth — are 12.

Looking back reminds them all of their carefree early childhood: rainy holidays in Wales, blustery dog walks, pretending to fly on the swings in the park. As idyllic as it may sound, though, the fact is that the people in this portrait are as far removed from a traditional family as you can get.



This graphic explains the complicated biological and adoptive relationships that are present between Ellen Bown's (far right) family

One woman — Ellen Bown — gave birth to all three of the children in the picture. But only Maddy is her 'official' daughter.

When it comes to Alex and Ruth, Ellen acted as a surrogate for her own mother, Jenny. Ellen used her own eggs, fertilised with her stepfather Tony's sperm. So, biologically, twins Alex and Ruth are teenager Maddy's half-brother and half-sister. But legally — having been adopted by Ellen's mother Jenny and stepfather Tony a week after their birth — they are now her aunt and uncle.

Which brings with it another mind-boggling twist. To the twins, Ellen Bown is both their biological mother and their legal half-sister. Meanwhile, Jenny and Tony are their biological grandparents but legal parents. To say it's an unconventional and complicated set-up would be an understatement — but it certainly isn't unique.

Just last month, the Mail broke the story of Anne-Marie Casson, a mother who brought a child into the world for her single, gay son, Kyle. Unlike Ellen in this instance, she did not use her own eggs, rather acting as a surrogate for a donor egg fertilised by Kyle's sperm.

And in February, retail expert Mary Portas revealed that her brother, Lawrence, is the genetic father of her son, Horatio, two.

Horatio was conceived through IVF, using Lawrence's sperm to fertilise an egg from Melanie Rickey, Portas's wife of five years.

Such stories have — understandably — sparked debate. Some have labelled these very modern interpretations of the family unethical, and have questioned the robustness of our surrogacy and fertility laws. But Ellen Bown and her mother Jenny Dias insist there is nothing perturbing about their situation . . . well, apart from the perplexing issue of what on earth they all call each other.

Ellen (left) has given birth to three children - Maddy, Alex and Ruth - but only Maddy is her 'official' daughter, Alex (right) and Ruth (centre) were legally adopted by Ellen's mother Jenny, and stepfather, Tony

'We have always tried to stick to the adoptive relationships,' says Jenny, 65, a retired saleswoman and receptionist. 'So the twins call me and Tony "Mummy" and "Daddy", as you'd expect. It's only different with Ellen.

'We got around that by them calling her "Tummy Mummy". So I'm Mummy, she's Tummy Mummy. That worked while the twins were little — now they just call her "Ellen". She is a second mum to them.'

Ellen, 46, a trainee midwife, nods. 'We have been open with all of them from the beginning about where they came from. Maddy was five when the twins were born. She knew that I was growing something in my tummy for Granny and Grandad and that, when they were born, they were going to live with them.'

Alex — bubbly, polite and dressed in a smart blue suit and school shoes — chimes in, unprompted: 'People ask me all the time at school, but it's just labels. We're a normal family.'

'Normal' may well be a stretch for some people, but it's clear from a few minutes in the extended family's company that they are a closely knit, happy unit.

Ellen (seated centre) says the family have been open with all three of the children right from the beginning

Twelve-year-old Ruth, a tiny, pretty thing with huge brown eyes, sits on her half-sister/aunt Maddy's knee, showering her with kisses and posing for selfies. Alex kicks his chair leg and is gently told off by adoptive dad Tony. Ellen appears and Ruth loiters by her birth mother's side, then bounds over towards her adoptive mum Jenny to cling to her arm.

There are striking similarities between the twins and their biological parents, Ellen and Tony. Both have Ellen's openness and warm smile, Tony's mischievous eyes and striking dark skin (he was born in Kenya and grew up in India before moving to Britain).

Maddy's father — who is no longer in Ellen's life — was Jamaican, so the trio's physical appearance gives the impression that they are full siblings.

I was at the right time of my life. It seemed like the most natural thing to do.
Ellen Bown

Today, they all live just ten minutes from each other in Uxbridge, West London — Ellen and Maddy in one house and Jenny, Tony and the twins in another.

So, exactly how did this unusual arrangement come about?

When Tony, now 54, and Jenny met in 1992 through their work at British Telecom, they never dreamt

they would have children together. Though he was at the time just 31, Jenny was 42, with a grown-up son and daughter by her first husband, and had undergone a hysterectomy for health reasons five years earlier.

Dating turned into a serious relationship and, in 1999, Jenny and Tony decided to get married.

It was Ellen who first raised the subject of children — in fact, over the wedding breakfast, at a local Indian restaurant. 'I said, "What are you going to do about children? You're married now — all you need is a couple of kids",' says Ellen.

It planted the seed for Jenny and Tony and, when the subject came up in conversation again, Jenny told her daughter Ellen that they were considering surrogacy.

'I said, "Don't do that. Don't ask a stranger,"' says Ellen. 'If they were going to have a baby, they might as well let me have one for them.

Ellen (right) is seen here with Ruth (left), Maddy (centre left) and Alex (centre right). Ellen is the biological mother to all three of the children but is only 'officially' Maddy's mother

'I was at the right time of my life. It seemed like the most natural thing to do.'

At this stage, Jenny thought she might be able to harvest her own eggs for the surrogacy, despite her hysterectomy. But fertility tests revealed they weren't usable — so the couple broached the subject with Ellen of using Ellen's own eggs.

'If it couldn't be mine, Ellen's eggs were the next best thing,' says Jenny. 'I wouldn't have felt comfortable adopting someone else's baby where I didn't know the family history. At least I would be biologically related to them this way as, genetically, they would be my grandchildren.'

Ellen, at the time 32 and a single mother, said yes without hesitation. 'I was shocked she was so blasé about it,' says Jenny, 'but she is very strong and selfless. She brought her daughter up alone so beautifully.'

Jenny got in touch with the London Gynaecology And Fertility Centre in Harley Street in October 2000, and they began a series of mental and physical assessments to have the surrogacy approved.

Ellen (back left) was 32 and a single mother herself when she offered to carry a baby for her mother, Jenny (back right) and stepfather, Tony

Their first efforts were unsuccessful. The clinic was happy to proceed with the surrogacy — but only with donor eggs, not Ellen's. There were concerns about Maddy's psychological welfare, as well as Ellen's ability to part with the baby after birth.

'We were horribly disappointed,' says Jenny. 'The possibility of becoming parents occupied mine and Tony's every waking moment. But we weren't going to be put off.'

The three appealed the decision, and, after another round of psychological tests, were granted permission to try intrauterine insertion (IUI), where the sperm is inserted directly into the uterus, in February 2001.

We see each other all the time, we're incredibly close.
Ellen Bown

Jenny took a redundancy package from her sales job at BT, using her severance pay and savings to pay for the treatment.

Two rounds of IUI failed, so they agreed to try in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). Thirteen of Ellen's eggs were collected, eight of which were fertilised. Two of the healthiest, most viable embryos were implanted. In total, it cost Jenny and Tony £9,200.

The process — using Tony's sperm to fertilise his stepdaughter's eggs — might give some cause to shudder, but Ellen insists she was never put off by the reality of what she was doing. 'Before we started, I said it had to be done in a clinic,' says Ellen. 'I didn't want any DIY stuff with turkey basters — that would be too intimate. But it wasn't gross. It was in a petri dish — it didn't mean anything at that stage.'

Ellen found out she was pregnant that December. 'We did a test,' she says, using 'we' as naturally as if she were referring to herself and a partner — when, really, she means her, her mother and her stepfather.

Jenny interrupts: 'No, we didn't. You were having pains and we went to the hospital because we were worried it might be an ectopic pregnancy.

While Ellen (pictured) was pregnant with the twins, her mother Jenny, and stepfather Tony took care of her daughter Maddy, did her grocery shopping and helped around the house

'They did a scan and we could see these two little dots. One baby would have been brilliant — but twins! It was incredible.'

Over the following nine months, Jenny accompanied Ellen to all her hospital appointments, with Tony joining them whenever he could get time off work, elated by the prospect of finally becoming a father.

Tony and Jenny looked after Maddy for Ellen, did her grocery shopping and helped with the housework.

Friends and family were understanding as they knew how much having children meant to Jenny and Tony — and how willing Ellen was to help.

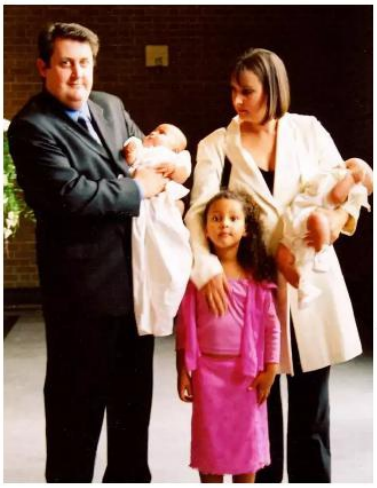
'We've never had any really negative reactions,' says Tony. 'There may have been some comments on Facebook where people have called us weirdos, or asked what the hell we were doing, but most are very understanding.' Ellen went into hospital for a planned birth in early May 2002, with Jenny and Tony by her side in the delivery room, anxiously waiting for their children to arrive.

Ruth came first, followed 40 minutes later by Alex, who had to be induced using a ventouse suction cap, as he was turned the wrong way round in the womb.

Ruth was born first and twin brother Alex arrived 40 minutes later, Ellen (right) is seen here at the twins' christening with her brother, Derek (left) and daughter, Maddy (front centre)

'The birth was so calm and relaxed,' says Jenny. 'Ellen's birthing plan was that she wouldn't hold the babies, so the paediatrician handed them straight to me, then I took them over and showed them to Ellen.

'It was surreal. Suddenly, they were there. It was really happening.'



Maddy came to visit her mother soon after, and the room filled with squeals of laughter as she laid eyes on the newborns. That night, Jenny stayed with Ellen at the hospital. It was then, she admits, that she felt the real emotional impact of what they were doing.

I kept asking and asking and then she just explained it. It didn't ever matter. Maddy's always been our sister. She just lives down the road. Ruth Dias

'Poor Ellen was quite weak from losing a lot of blood,' says Jenny, her voice trembling slightly. 'It just didn't seem fair. She wasn't keeping these babies, yet they were in the same room as her. She could smell them, see them and hear them. It did get to me, because she is my baby, too.' The next night, Jenny and the twins were moved upstairs. 'That was lovely — just me and the babies together,' says Jenny. 'But I was worried about how Ellen was feeling.'

Yet Ellen says she had no idea her mother was so concerned. Of the birth, she says: 'It was quite an experience. But I made sure I didn't get attached during my pregnancy. I didn't talk to my bump — Mum and Tony did that.

'And in the delivery room, I never wavered. I just felt love.'

The adoption process was finalised the same week, and Ruth and Alex went home with Jenny and Tony.

Ellen was producing breastmilk so, not wanting to waste it, she sent it over, ready-bottled, to her mum.

'That was perfect,' says Jenny. 'We fell into things naturally. I'd done it before, of course, and Tony was a wonderful father from the start.'

Today, Ellen and Maddy (pictured) live just ten minutes away from Jenny, Tony and the twins in Uxbridge, West London and the family see eachother regularly

Tony beams: 'I could have coped with anything. The fact I was a father — all because of Ellen's kindness — was more than I could bear.'

From then on, Maddy, Ruth and Alex grew up together, spending evenings round at each other's houses and summers in each other's gardens. They had never known anything other than their family set-up — and wouldn't have changed it for the world.

'I always wanted a brother or sister and I adore them,' says Maddy, with a calm, confident manner. 'There was nothing weird about it.'

Ruth chips in: 'I started off by asking Mum [Jenny] how it worked and she told me it was too complicated because I was so young.

'I kept asking and asking and then she just explained it. It didn't ever matter. Maddy's always been our sister. She just lives down the road.'

Maddy (centre) says she has always wanted a brother or sister and adores both Ruth (left) and Alex (right)

Discipline and decisions throughout the twins' childhood — from what school to send them to, to how long to confiscate their Xbox for — have always been a shared endeavour. As have holidays.

On a recent break to Cape Verde, the twins stayed in a separate apartment with Ellen and Maddy to give Jenny and Tony a break.

Now in her mid-60s with two pre-teenage children, some might criticise Jenny's decision to have babies at such an age — especially after she had already experienced motherhood.

But she refuses to be cowed. 'It is hard work and I don't think older people should go into it lightly,' says Jenny. 'I get tired and health issues have started creeping in.

'There are so many things I'd love to do with them that I just can't — taking Ruth horseriding, for example. But I never feel old. I'm young at heart, and the twins keep me that way.'

The family maintain that they are incredibly close and to them any confusing relationship titles are just 'labels', Alex (second right) says they are just a 'normal family'

Strangers, quite naturally, assume Jenny is the twins' grandmother but, she says, that doesn't bother her. 'I'll be out with the kids and people will ask, "Oh, is Nana in charge today?" And I'll say, "No, actually, it's Mum".'

So how does Ellen see her relationship with the twins? Is she like another mother? A sister, perhaps an aunt?

For the first time, she hesitates. 'I don't know. I really don't. We see each other all the time, we're incredibly close.' She glances at Ruth and Alex, larking around with Tony's iPhone, and grins the grin of a proud mother.

Ellen catches Jenny's eye — she's wearing exactly the same expression. Their smiles widen.

'Other people might not understand us,' says Ellen. 'But we see it as the most natural thing in the world.'

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Multiple Witnesses Spot 19-Foot-Long Bird in Alabama Lake - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

Posted on Apr 22 2015 - 10:12pm by Cryptozoology News

DADEVILLE, Ala. — A 53-year-old man says he and another person witnessed an "ungodly huge black bird" flying over their heads while boating in an Alabama lake.

Lake Martin Giant Bird Sighting

Eclectic resident Jeff Wallace, who works as an engineers assistant, told Cryptozoology News that he was at Martin Lake Reservoir on a "midnight boat ride" with his family, mostly children, when they spotted the feathered creature at about 10 p.m. in July of 1998.

"I was running about 20 mph and this thing was gliding overhead and looking down into the boat," Wallace said. "This incredibly large bird was gliding above our boat and keeping pace in a glide. As I was looking up at it, I saw its head moving, as if taking stock of the contents of the boat. My daughter's boyfriend Bo Dreher eventually noticed me looking upward and looked up to see what I was entranced about, he looked just in time to see the bird flair its wingtips and disappear into the dark night sky. We were the only two in the boat that even noticed it."

The boat, Wallace said, was about 19 feet long and the alleged bird was "almost as big".

"It had a wingspan three to four times as wide as our boat. It was jet black, darker than the night sky. Its wings were flat across the tips as it glided, but flared out as it turned and flew off and upward to the South. The estimated wingspan would be about 20 to 30 feet. The birds body shape was that of a raven or crow, but extremely large. It had finger-like feathers."

The man states that the sighting didn't last longer than 10 or 15 seconds.

He believes that what they saw that night was an *Argentavis magnificens*, also known as Terrator and believed to be extinct. Remains of this bird, which lived in Argentina about 6 million years ago, were found by curator at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Kenneth Campbell.

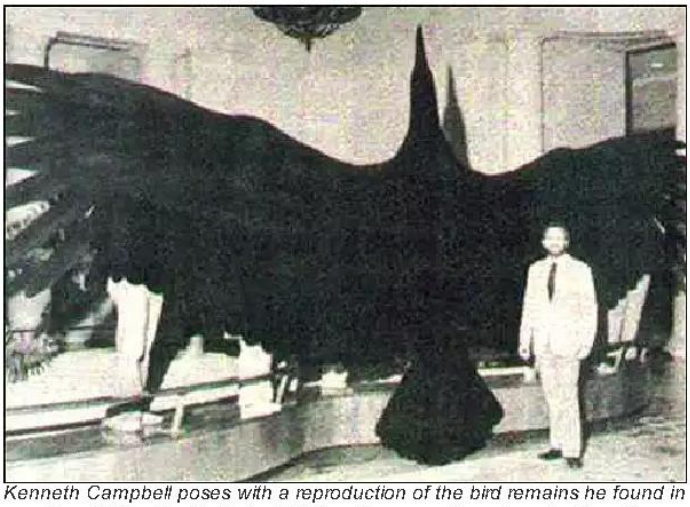
"After doing a little research, I found this. This is what we saw that night," Wallace explained.

Wallace believes that the animal was looking down at them from about 12 feet above the boat, and that it could have easily carried one of the smaller children away.

"Not me,... and still fly, anyway. I would have been quite a load for this bird, even back then."

The man, a Florida native, says that the sighting was "earth shattering" and that it changed his "whole view of the world" and that he was not under the influence of any substance.

"Definitely not. My father didn't allow drinking at all. No drinking is, was or ever was allowed at his lake house. I had eight to nine children in the boat. I'm sure this thing saw my boat zipping across that dark lake that night and came down to have a look. I'm just glad I wasn't the only one on board who saw it," Wallace said. "Seems the more you talk about these things, the more most folks think you're nut cakes.



Kenneth Campbell poses with a reproduction of the bird remains he found in the 1980s. Credit: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Could care less who believes me or not."

In 1927, a similar event took place in the Australian town of Fernvale when a few giant birds visited the area, causing panic among the town's residents.

In 2012, an Ontario man photographed a large bird while fishing at Lake Huron with his father.

Lake Martin is a 44,000-acre lake located in Tallapoosa, Elmore and Coosa counties. It is formed by the dam built on the Tallapoosa River. In 2011, an EF4 tornado destroyed life and property across the lake.

1 Comment so far. Feel free to join this conversation.

1. **Mary Katherine** April 24, 2015 at 1:04 pm -

Wow!! I remember the Ontario Man and that man who saw one flying next to his small airplane. Heard of a lot of people out west talk about seeing the Thunderbirds.. Never hear of one in Alabama until now! Makes you stop and think especially out in the open fields, lakes or rivers. I would have to hit the thick woods for cover and protection. Remember also about the little boy that a huge bird try to pick him up. These people are seeing something that is real.! After having my encounters of Bigfoot and they flax I got I know what Jeff is talking about.. He knows what he and the other man saw! They will never be the same again. So many people will not even allow themself to think outside of the box. This is a big world and every year new creatures are being discovered. Some that was believe to be extinct like the Coelacanth fish . Only bad thing is if you don't have your PhD behind it, or a dead body on a slab, people thinks you're crazy.. Great story and thank you Jeff Wallace for sharing your story.. Hey are you by any chance related to the late Governor George Wallace ? He and my Grandfather were good friends.. Keep looking up….

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Murder map of the world shows Honduras is most homicidal country

May 13, 2015 news.com.au

Last updated: **May 13, 2015**

Latin America and the Caribbean account for a third of the world's killings. *Source:* Supplied

PLANNING an overseas holiday or an international move? You may want to consult the "murder map" before you go.

This interactive guide to global homicide identifies the world's deadliest countries — and the safest.

Latin America and the Caribbean account for a third of the world's homicides, claiming 14 of the 20 deadliest countries. Almost half of its victims are men aged 15 to 29.

Australia is among the safest nations, with just 1.1 homicides per 100,000 people in 2012.

Australia is one of the safest countries on earth. *Source:* Supplied

The 3D map created by Brazilian thinktank the Igarapé Institute also shows information on weapon, gender and age of the victim. It is thought to be the most comprehensive public data set of its kind, and could help with strategies to prevent and reduce violence.

The Homicide Monitor shows that Honduras is the deadliest country in the world, with a murder rate of 85.5 per 100,000 people, along with Venezuela and the US Virgin Islands. The countries with the lowest homicide rates are Liechtenstein, Monaco and Singapore.

More than half of all murders are committed with firearms, the data shows, but this drops to just 17 per cent per cent of homicides in Australia.

At least 437,000 people die violently around the world each year, a global average of 6.2 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. The victims are overwhelmingly male, at 79 per cent.

Police and the media gather in Honduras's Carrizal neighbourhood, north of Tegucigalpa, where five family members were killed this week. *Source:* AFP

The monitor collects data at the state and city level in Latin America and the Caribbean, and while the numbers are disturbing, there are glimmers of hope for its mission to cut murders.

Some of Latin America's most dangerous cities of the past have turned themselves around, with Rio de Janeiro's homicide rate dropping by 65.8 per cent between 2002 and 2012 and Sao Paulo´s homicide rate plummeting by 80 per cent between 2000 and 2010.

Medellin in Colombia, once the world's most dangerous city, also saw an 80 per cent decline between 2000 and 2014.

The Igarapé Institute intends to release regular dispatches analysing patterns and trends in lethal violence to help with global solutions to humankind's most fatal problem.

The homicide monitor hopes to combat deaths like these, which were reportedly due to non-payment of a 'war tax' to 'maras' gangs, short for 'marabuntas' (ravenous ants that eat everything in their path). *Source:* AFP

Its website says: "Until quite recently, many governments were reluctant to publicise information on murder for fear of negatively affecting their country's reputation, tourism and investment flows. Fortunately, attitudes are changing and there is growing openness and transparency about the scale and distribution of homicidal violence.

"The problem, however, is that information on lethal violence is dispersed and often not comparable. The Homicide Monitor brings together all publicly available information on homicide into a single interface and is intended to help policy makers, journalists, scholars and activists identify problem areas and possible solutions."

Let's hope this fascinating site can make a real difference to this life-or-death problem.

In Honduras, one of the most the most dangerous places in the world for gay and transgender people, seeking asylum in the United States is their best chance for survival. Photo: Natalie Keyssar.

News Limited Copyright © 2015. All times on this site are AEST (GMT +10).

Mutant pig with strange features and appendage on its forehead draws crowds — and cash offers

Michael Morrow and Agency
February 10, 2015

heraldsun.com.au

Birth shock ... A mutant piglet was born a penis on its forehead and a human-like head. Picture: Australscope. *Source:* australscope

SNAPS of a Chinese farmer's newborn pig that he claims had a human face and a penis on its forehead have gone viral.

Friends and neighbours of farmer Tao Lu had rushed to his property in Yanan township in Nanning city in southern China after news spread of the mutant pig.

Local Wu Kung who posted his images said: "I was one of a dozen people went there to see the piglet, and it really did human face and exactly like he said, a willie growing out of its forehead."

Piglet ... A farmer says he was inundated with cash offers for a pig born with a human face. Picture: Australscope. *Source:* australscope

He said it was alive and squealing but didn't live long after being rejected by the mother and refusing to feed from a bottle.

Farmer Tao said he was amazed because he received phone calls from collectors prepared to pay a large sum of money for the animal.

"It was a large litter, and the mutant was one of the last of 19 piglets to be born.

"All the others were normal, just this one was really bizarre. It is a

shame it died, I could have got more money for it them for the rest of the family put together based on what people were offering me on the phone."

He said they had wanted to put the mutant pig on display to attract visitors.

Oink oink ... The piglet was born a 'willie' on its forehead and a human-like head. Picture: Australscope. *Source:* australscope

Originally published as Mutant pig born with human face

News Corp 2015 Copyright

"I was not there at the time.

"There are also stories about this ghost brushing past people on the stairs.

"People who think they are in tune with the spirit world always say they can feel something; but it's warm, not malevolent."

Philanthropist Mr Caudwell bought Broughton Hall 20 years ago for £800,000 and it is now worth more than £10 million.

The manor of Broughton was owned by the eponymous Broughton family from the 13th century.

SWNS

The present house was built in the mid 16th century in the vernacular black and white timbered style of the Elizabethan period.

The estate was sold in 1914 to John Hall, a Midlands industrialist, who extended the property and carried out significant restoration works including the removal of the stucco to reveal the original timbers.

During the 1940s the house served as a school and in 1952 it was donated by the Halls to the nuns of the Franciscan order of St Joseph.

It was abandoned in the 1990s until it was returned to private ownership in 2003.

As well as being haunted, the house is reputedly cursed, the curse being that no elder son will live to inherit it.

Earlier this year Mr Caudwell got the green light to build his own railway, so he can show off to family and friends.

> Several women have felt the bed vibrate. I was not there at the time
>
> John Caudwell

The three-mile track will take guests past the estate's tennis court and indoor swimming pool, through the large gardens and then round the parkland attached to the property.

Mr Caudwell admitted: "It's a mad idea - crackpot really.

"I'll probably only use the railway two or three times a year but I've had a fascination with steam trains since I was a boy."

'My £10m mansion is haunted by ghost of boy killed more than 300 years ago'

express.co.uk

A BILLIONAIRE admits it can be hell living in his £10million mansion as he claims it's haunted - by the ghost of a child killed in the English Civil War.

By Chris Riches
PUBLISHED: 15:12, Mon, Apr 27, 2015 | UPDATED: 08:57, Tue, Apr 28, 2015

SWNS

Phones4U founder John Caudwell, 62, bought the 16th Century, 50-room Grade 1-listed Broughton Hall, near Eccleshall, Staffs, 20 years ago.

In January he was granted planning permission to build his own "narrow gauge steam railway" in the Elizabethan-style mansion's 28-acre grounds.

But now the father-of-five has revealed the huge property is haunted by the spirit of a terrified boy who died in the 17th century.

The tycoon said: "The little boy was alone in the house.

"All the men had gone out hunting and the Cromwellians came down the drive.

"He shouted: 'We are for the king' - and one of the soldiers lifted a musket and shot him dead.

"He fell in the Long Gallery, crawled into one of the bedrooms and bled to death.

SWNS

"Legend has it that, every so often, those blood stains come oozing through."

Mr Caudwell - the 42nd richest person in Britain - admitted he has never seen the ghost himself, but other guests who have were left terrified.

He added: "I've never seen that, but there's a strange thing where several women have slept in the room and felt the bed vibrate.

Mr Caudwell founded Phones4U in 1996 before selling the business for £1.47 billion in 2006.

While at his mansion in 2010, he was clubbed with an iron bar and his girlfriend Claire Johnson, 45, assaulted by masked robbers.

The raiders escaped with hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of cash and jewellery in the raid which left Mr Caudwell with a deep gash to his head.

TonyWestNEW3 days ago
More likely the ghost of the people he ripped off
-1
Proud BritNEW3 days ago
"..... but there's a strange thing where several women have slept in the room and felt the bed vibrate'

"Ah, Watson, there is a most important clue which will most certainly solve this mystery"
photobuffNEW4 days ago
If he wants to pay me I will go and live there.
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GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mysterious Civil War Photo Was A Hoax

| By MITCH WEISS and RUSS BYNUM

huffingtonpost.com

April 17, 2015

Mysterious Civil War Photo Was Really Teenage Hoax

Posted: 04/13/2015 9:28 am EDT Updated: 04/13/2015 11:59 am EDT

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — For three decades, the stained and blurry photograph presented a great mystery to Civil War historians.

It was a picture taken of another photo in a peeling, gilded frame. In the foreground stood a man, his back to the camera, wearing an overcoat and a hat. In the center, visible amid stains and apparent water damage, was a ship.

Did this picture show the only known photograph of the ironclad Confederate warship the CSS Georgia?

The 1,200-ton ship armored with strips of railroad iron never fired a shot in combat after it was built to defend the Georgia coast in the Civil War. Confederate sailors sunk their ship in December 1864 as Gen. William T. Sherman's Union troops captured Savannah.

No blueprints survived and period illustrations varied in their details. The photo would confirm details of the Georgia's design, if only it could be authenticated. Records show John Potter donated a copy of the picture of the photo to the Georgia Historical Society in March 1986.

As the Army Corps of Engineers embarked this year on a $14 million project to raise the Georgia's wreckage from the river, archaeologists publicized the image online and in news stories — including an Associated Press story — hoping to track down the original photo.

Robert Holcombe, former curator of the National Civil War Naval Museum, told the AP in February that while the original photograph would be needed to confirm if the image was authentic, he believed it was real.

"Most people seem to think so," he said. "Or else it's an awfully good fake."

Now the man who took that photo of the photo all those years ago says he wants to clear the record: It is a fake.

Here was the story John Potter told 30 years ago:

The Savannah native was at a yard sale when he found the photograph in an antique frame. Inscribed on the back of the frame was "CSS Georgia." He couldn't afford it, so he took a photo and mailed it to historical groups in Savannah.

Here is his new story, which he told exclusively to The Associated Press:

When he was a teenager in Savannah, Potter, his brother Jeffrey and a friend shot a short 8mm movie about the CSS Georgia. They built a 2-foot model.

At some point, Potter decided to test whether he had the skills to become a Hollywood special effects artist.

Potter's younger brother put on a coat and straw hat and went out to a marsh with a cane fishing pole and Potter took a photo. He took another photo of the model. He glued the boat's image onto the photo of his brother, then used dirt and glue to "age" the photo.

Potter sent the photo to historical groups, setting off a sporadic search for a CSS Georgia photo that he now says never existed.

The gilded frame that once held the disputed photo now holds a portrait of Potter's deceased pug, Puggy Van Dug.

Potter, 50, lives alone in a cluttered, one-story house in the North Carolina mountains. He never became a successful special effects artist.

He once owned a Savannah antiques store and provided props for movies filming in the area. He had a stint as a maintenance man for a lighthouse and museum on nearby Tybee Island. He spent nights drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon at Huc-a-Poos, where a mock police mug shot of him hangs with the words: "Tybee Record — 77 PBRs in one night."

"Potter's a crazy guy," said Eric Thomas, Huc-a-Poos' owner. "He's also a lovable guy."

After their father died in 2011, Potter and his brother Jeffrey moved to North Carolina.

Last month, Jeffrey, the only person who shared the secret, killed himself at age 48.

Potter said he'd forgotten about the photo and had no idea the fuss it had caused until he saw it recently on the Army Corps website.

First, he decided to play along. But after his brother's death, he contacted AP to come clean.

"I'm not in good health. I didn't want to drop dead and carry that to my grave," he said.

Potter said he never profited from his hoax.

"I didn't intend to hurt or embarrass anybody, because I really love history," he said. "But there's still a lesson there: Do your dang homework."

But is Potter now telling the truth?

He gave the AP his old 8 mm movie along with old photos. One showed a young man he said was his brother in a marsh wearing a coat and straw hat and carrying a fishing pole — much like the figure in the ironclad photograph. Another showed the boy holding the model of the ship.

Potter said the original got destroyed long ago when he tried to remove it from the frame.

After his brother's death, Potter told Thomas about the hoax. Yet the bar owner suspected the ironclad photo may be real and Potter has it.

"I said, 'What are you going to do with it?' And he said, 'Do with what?'" Thomas recalled. "And I said, 'The picture.' And he said, 'I'm going to sell it.'"

Potter seemed to suggest to AP that maybe he was pulling an elaborate double hoax.

Then he dismissed that as "too wacky."

"That's crazy talk," Potter said.

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Mysterious island is home to 60,000-year-old community who KILL outsiders

mirror.co.uk

- 22:48, 22 April 2015
- By John Shammas

It is a criminal offence to try and make contact with the Sentinelese

It may look like a typical island paradise - but be warned, because all is not as it seems in this mysterious landscape.

The Indian Ocean island, which is about the size of Manhattan, has been inhabited by the indigenous Sentinelese for 60,000 years.

The tribe have rejected the modern world and are violent to outsiders - killing two men in 2006 after they were fishing nearby their North Sentinel Island.

They even go as far as to throw rocks and shoot arrows at planes or helicopters, and such is the hostility they show towards outsiders that only low-quality photos exist of the inhabitants.

Indian Ocean island is home to Sentinelese community who kill outsiders

Indian authorities have gone as far as making it a crime to try to make contact with the Sentinelese.

But while it is illegal to go within three miles of the island, that has not stopped some from venturing nearby.

Caught on camera: The Sentinelese tribes, estimated population of 200, live in North Sentinel Island

Survival International - which advocates for the rights of tribal groups - has claimed that local fisherman are regularly entering the area - with one even stepping onto the island before he and six others were arrested by the authorities.

The group now fears that the survival of the tribe is under threat.

The AustralianSunetra Chakravartie

NASA

Mystery island: The unspoilt North Sentinel Island

Survival International's director, Stephen Corry, said: "The Great Andamanese tribes of India's Andaman Islands were decimated by disease when the British colonised the islands in the 1800s.

"The most recent to be pushed into extinction was the Bo tribe, whose last member died only four years ago.

Survival International

Secretive: The indigenous Sentinelese tribe

"The only way the Andamanese authorities can prevent the annihilation of another tribe is to ensure North Sentinel Island is protected from outsiders."

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How'd it get there? stuff.co.nz

Mystery cone spotted on top of Nelson's Cathedral

JONATHAN CARSON

Last updated 14:26, May 11 2015

Alden Williams/FairfaxNZ The road cone on top of Nelson's Christ Church Cathedral.

A road cone has been perched on top of the flagpole on Nelson's Christ Church Cathedral.

The mystery of who put it there and how they got up there had lunchtime visitors to the Church Steps stumped on Monday.

"Holy moly," said one pupil who was there for lunch. "How'd it get up there?"

The cathedral tower has a ladder accessible from inside, but it's believed the person, or people, responsible scaled the outside of the building and then climbed the flagpole with the cone.

The tower is 35 metres high.

Christ Church Cathedral dean Reverend Nick Kirk said he "wouldn't have a clue" how the cone got on the flagpole, or who put it there.

"People do sometimes climb up on the roof and things and they've obviously managed to get up there somehow."

He believed the cone appeared overnight Sunday.

"I think it's just dangerous. I mean people could fall, break their neck and kill themselves."

He cited the case of Nelson teenager Finn O'Neill-Stevens, who died after climbing onto a roof and falling through a glass skylight at St Pauls' Cathedral in Wellington last July.

"I just think it's so dangerous just climbing up a tower."

Arrangements were being made for the cone to be removed, Reverend Kirk said.

"It's a bit of a risky job. Anyway, it's got to be done."

Do you know anything about how the cone got there? Contact newstips@stuff.co.nz or phone 03 546 2846

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Mystery Monday - April 13, 2015 Haunted Park In Boone County

Monday, April 13 2015 11:01 AM EDT lex18.com

Posted: Apr 13, 2015 3:30 PM PDT Updated: Apr 13, 2015 5:04 PM PDT

Big Bone Lick in Boone County has attracted many who want to learn about the ice age and Native American history. In the last five years though, the historic site has attracted hundreds of ghost hunters, all of them curious about the paranormal.

That curiosity makes Big Bone Lick a perfect topic for LEX 18's Mystery Monday.

When paranormal investigators began doing tours at the historic site, they were intrigued with what they found, especially at the church.

Investigators talk about hearing voices, seeing shadow figures and people walking up and down the steps.

A picture was snapped inside the church showing a mysterious brown-reddish figure.

"It looks like a wagon wheel and a figure--that one that we can't explain yet," Eddie Parks, a paranormal investigator said. "We've debated it for years."

Big Bone Methodist Church, built in 1888, was also a Masonic lodge and it is said that the pastor at the time killed himself.

Many wonder if the strange things that happen at the church are caused by his ghost.

One man tells of the time he was doing an investigation on the suicide and had a book slam on the podium in front of him.

But it's not just the church that is shrouded in mystery. The Baker Family Cemetery has it's own mysteries. The burial ground dates back to the early 1800's.

While recording a tour of the park, investigators asked, "*is she here?*"

Faintly, a response came back ... "*no she isn't.*"

The voice sounded like it came from a little girl. This stumped investigators because there were no children on the tour.

They are planning to continue investigating with more tours in 2015, starting April 25. They welcome anyone who wants to see for themselves.

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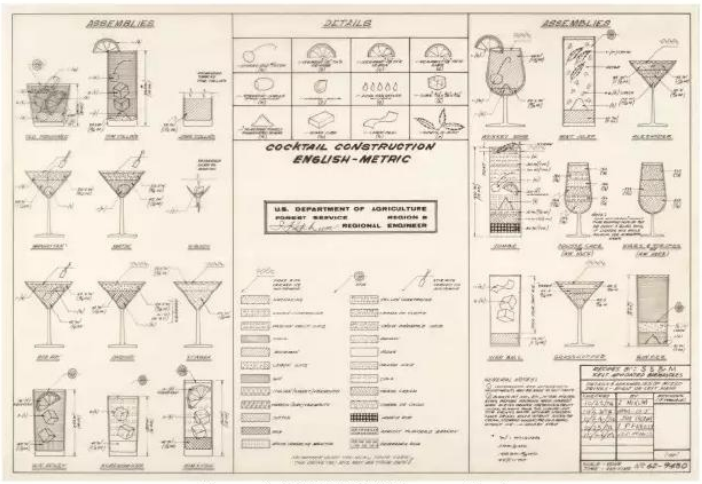
| |

8th April, 2015 by Lauren Eads

A chart produced in 1974 by the US Forest Service on how to construct cocktails has bizarrely ended up in the US National Archives, leaving the internet scratching its head as to its purpose within such an organisation.



gallery-1428082544-cocktail-a

The 1974 document titled Cocktail Construction Chart was discovered in the National Archives online collection last week by website Kottke, and quickly sparked debate as to why the US Forest Service would commission and publish such a document, given that cocktail-making seems entirely irrelevant to the profession.

The chart uses technical drawings to detail the specific measurements of a variety of cocktails including a Tom Collins, Daiquiri, Rob Roy, Zombie and Manhattan, along with appropriate garnishes and mixers.

One of the more unusual serves was the Stars and Stripes, also known as Aw Heck, a sweet cocktail comprised of one third grenadine, one third cream and one third Creme Yvette – a liqueur made from parma violet petals with blackberries, red raspberries, wild strawberries and cassis, honey, orange peel and vanilla.

Production of the 100-year-old liqueur stopped in 1969, however it was recently resurrected by Rob Cooper, creator of St. Germain elderflower liqueur, in 2009 after a 40 year hiatus.

Speaking to *Esquire* Larry Chambers, the National Press Officer for the US Forest Service, explained that former Forest Service Region 8 Engineer Cleve “Red” Ketcham, who passed away in 2005, is thought to be responsible.

The signature of Ketcham, who worked at the organisation between 1974 and 1980, is scribbled in the centre of the chart. Sharon Phillips, a longtime program management analyst for the US Forest Service, said Ketcham was certainly the author of the chart and probably created it as a “joke” speculating that it probably got “mixed up with some legitimate stuff and ended up in the Archives.”

Chambers admitted that even the US Forest Service was “surprised” it had made it into the Archives, which he said after 1946 began to be more vigilant about what passed for preservation.

“This is the sort of thing our historian expected should have been tossed in the can”, Chambers said.

Click on the image to enlarge.

This article was published on Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 at 11:15 am. You can follow any responses to this article through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response.

6 Responses to “Mystery over 1974 cocktail chart”

1. bscepter says:
April 8, 2015 at 2:49 pm

clearly this is an office joke – probably made up for a party. whatever it is, it’s pretty funny and really well executed.

Reply

2. bscepter says:
April 8, 2015 at 2:51 pm

take note, too, of the check boxes at the bottom and pay attention to the names. “I. Mixum.” “I.P. Freely” “Ima Sot.” “Jim Beam,” etc. that should give an indication to the serious nature of this chart.

Reply

3. rallison says:
April 8, 2015 at 4:56 pm

Someone obviously had fun with this. Plus, it’s a good lampoon of the early 70s push to convert everything to the metric system.

Reply

4. Commodore Biggles says:
April 8, 2015 at 5:14 pm

My father created his own version of this poster – which had in turn been copied from one created by a fellow Engineering student in the 1970s. They were nearly identical to this chart, with slightly modified drink choices. I gather this must have been a common thing among students studying drafting at that time.

Reply

5. Richard Spalding says:
April 8, 2015 at 9:27 pm

Finally, a government agency that has produced something useful for the American public!!

Reply

6. pfargtl says:
April 9, 2015 at 12:56 am

I find it offensive that one could come to the conclusion of “This is the sort of thing our historian expected should have been tossed in the can” in regard to any sort of engineer’s drawing such as this. Each and every completed drafting, done professionally and to completion as exampled here is a WORK OF ART and should be preserved as such, even if it, as in this case, was obviously not intended for official use. This should remain in the archives.

Reply

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Mystery surrounds high-pitched sound bothering residents in Sidcup

07:46 Wednesday 8 April 2015

newsshopper.co.uk

Laura Tamaj and pal Claudette Lawrence were affected by a similar noise in Thamesmead last November

by Patrick Grafton-Green

Mystery surrounds a high-pitched sound that has been bothering residents in Sidcup for the last two weeks.

Stella Woods, of Old Farm Road West, told News Shopper she and her neighbours are constantly affected by the noise, which she described as "bloody annoying".

The 56-year-old said: "We have a very loud, very high-pitched noise.

"It is just in the area, but you cannot make out where it is coming from.

"It is bloody annoying, especially at six in the morning when you wake up and you cannot go to sleep again."

She added there was a similar problem, which lasted for several months, in 2013.

This comes after residents in Thamesmead were driven crazy by a mysterious beeping noise in November last year.

The source was found to be the button to call a lift at Abbey Wood's new footbridge, installed temporarily during Crossrail work.

Do you know what the sound might be? Call the news desk on 01689 885 711 or e-mail patrickgg@london.newsquest.co.uk

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N.J. tree that survived Revolutionary War, Sandy chopped down on Earth Day

By Jessica Mazzola | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com | Follow on Twitter on May 06, 2015 at 2:30 PM, updated May 06, 2015 at 5:17 PM

nj.com

A tree previously designated historic by Millburn township has been lawfully cut down. (Photo courtesy Ocean Street neighbors)
"The beauty of this tree was staggering," neighbor Chris Tully said.

MILLBURN — A township view 200 years in the making has changed, after a historic tree town officials thought was protected by municipal ordinance was lawfully cut down by a developer.

The swamp white oak tree at 29 Ocean Street had been designated a "bicentennial tree" in Millburn – one that town officials believed to be at least 200 years old. It was one of 23 trees designated as such in the town's 2014 Environmental Resource Inventory Report. The township had an ordinance prohibiting the removal of the historical trees, and named trees to the protected list via resolutions.

"I looked at this tree from my window everyday for 30 years," Chris Tully, who lives in the Millburn neighborhood surrounding the tree, said. "The beauty of this tree was staggering."

In October of last year, township officials said a developer who purchased the property on Ocean Street applied for a tree removal permit. Town Forester Tom Doty denied the application.

"I obviously denied it," Doty said in an interview with NJ Advance Media. "That tree was protected by ordinance."

The development company – 29/33 Ocean Street, LLC – which is planning to build a two-family home on the property, fought the decision in court.

Attorneys Roger J. Desiderio and Christine M. Tiritilli argued in court documents that the township did not have a strong enough basis to designate the trees historical, and because ordinances cannot legally be amended by resolutions, the designations were invalid.

The town's "various characterizations of the tree as a bicentennial tree or as predating the Revolutionary War or as being 'historic' have no support in the record, as there have been no reports or testimony produced relating to the trees on the...list," Desiderio wrote in a court brief. He called the historic designation "arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable."

The developer also argued that the tree protection violated the company's private property ownership rights, court documents show.

Neither attorney returned a call for comment on behalf of the developer.

The township argued a decision in the developer's favor would be "permanent and irreparable...It is within the authority of the township to protect historical trees of such incredible significance."

It also stressed the historical significance of the oak. According to town officials, the tree was likely alive during the Revolutionary War. It was healthy, and had survived several severe weather situations, like Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, they said.

The courts sided with the developer.

On April 16, Judge Ned Rosenberg signed an order directing the town to issue the previously denied tree removal permit. Six days later – on Earth Day – neighbors said trucks rolled into the neighborhood and chopped down the tree.

"Obviously I'm disappointed and the township's disappointed," Doty said. He added that the town is now working to amend its ordinance so that it'll carry more weight in the future.

For now, neighbors on Ocean Street will have to get used to different views.

"I really do feel like we've lost something," Tully said. "It was a huge anchor to our neighborhood."

Jessica Mazzola may be reached at jmazzola@njadvancemedia.com. Follow her on Twitter @JessMazzola. Find NJ.com on Facebook.

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Nantucket passes ban on helium balloons - The Boston Globe

By Steve Annear Globe Staff April 08, 2015

bostonglobe.com

It's Nantucket's party, and they can ban helium balloons if they want to.

Residents of the island this week voted to prohibit the use of the floating party favors, a measure supporters said would protect marine animals who often mistake the deflated balloons for food.

But though the measure passed handily at Tuesday's Town Meeting, many think it goes too far in service of a goal that could have been achieved through education about responsible use and disposal.

To those in the town's small party industry, the debate mirrored the national discussion over how to prevent gun violence.

"Guns don't kill people; it's the people using the guns," said Bobby "The Balloon Wizard" Lamb, a children's entertainer who makes balloon animals at party functions.

"Personally, it's not going to affect me a lot, because I'm a balloon twister and I don't use helium," Lamb said, adding that his art relies on biodegradable balloons. "But I think it's extreme. I feel really bad for other businesses."

The amended town bylaw, passed by a count of 314-103, means people will no longer be able to sell or use any type of balloon that can be inflated with "lighter-than-air gas," such as helium. The measure covers plastic, latex, and Mylar balloons.

If visitors import balloons to Nantucket, they will have to toss them in a plastic trash bag and bring them to the town landfill.

Nantucket Town Clerk Catherine Flanagan Stover said a violation of the law would lead to a $50 fine. She did not know who would enforce the ban, but the town is working on materials to inform the public and vacationers about the rules.

Before it takes effect, the measure needs the approval of the state attorney general's office. That's routine procedure for any bylaw change made at a Massachusetts town meeting.

The proposal divided residents at a discussion Tuesday night, which marked the second day of Nantucket's annual Town Meeting.

Scott Leonard, director of operations at the Nantucket Marine Mammal Conservation Program, worked on the proposal for two years.

Leonard said stray balloons may seem like they've floated away for good, but descend to the ground when they deflate. Marine animals, including birds, turtles and fish, sometimes eat balloons they've mistaken for food.

"This will help maintain a healthy ecosystem," said Leonard. "It's an easy behavior to fix, and we have fixed it here."

Sarah Oktay, a Nantucket environmental advocate, said she and her colleagues pick up thousands of balloons every year.

"They're just annoying. There are other ways to celebrate," said Oktay, who is co-captain of Nantucket's Clean Team, which combs beaches for debris on select Saturdays.

"We are on the frontline of balloon cleanup," she added.

Both Leonard and Oktay said Nantucket could set a precedent for other cities and towns. That's important for Nantucket, because a lot of trash floats to the island from Cape Cod. Nantucket also has a ban on polystyrene foam and single-use plastic bags.

"We act as a final resting place." Oktay said.

Brian Glowacki, a lifetime Nantucket resident who voted against the new law at Town Meeting, said he agreed with the goals, but they could have been achieved more simply.

He argued that the town should educate people about the proper way to dispose of helium-filled balloons, rather than putting an end to their use.

"I think their heart was in the right place ... but a ban on balloons is going a little crazy," said Glowacki. "I didn't think it would ever pass."

Steve Annear can be reached at steve.annear@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @steveannear.
23 Comments

- Padraighin04/08/15 01:39 PM
Next to go should be the abominable practice of releasing balloons, either in celebration or in mourning. Those things don't just disappear into space--they get stuck in trees or land in lakes and rivers, and they don't biodegrade. Ugly and dangerous to wildlife. Good job by Nantucket!
- Rileysdad04/08/15 01:49 PM
Normally I'd scoff at something like this but as an active diver I've seen some of the horrifying results on the sea floor of seemingly innocent items. Granted most items we see were deliberately tossed there out of selfish convenience but there is plenty of non-intentional garbage down there. I'm no activist tree hugger but this one actually makes some sense.
- MFINNH04/08/15 02:00 PM
I see a market for edible balloons.
    - Padraighin04/08/15 02:08 PM
    Like edible underwear, only for sea creatures? Hmmm....interesting....
- subvet197504/08/15 02:12 PM
There once was a lady from Nantucket who inflated a balloon for a ride to the moon. She was so sad when her helium ride, crossed the tide, and landed in a whale.
- ArmySteve04/08/15 02:38 PM
So now the only source of hot air in Nantucket is John Kerry.....
    - 04/08/15 03:05 PM
    hahaha....
    - shadub04/08/15 03:05 PM
    hahaha....
- kincade1204/08/15 03:03 PM
Nuts
- middleground04/08/15 03:12 PM
I truly feel sorry for you crazies who think that the government should be your mother. WOW!
    - Padraighin04/08/15 04:21 PM
    Speak for yourself. No one here asked for your pity.
    - Rileysdad04/08/15 06:38 PM
    I'm essentially a Libertarian (without the crazy train mentality) but this is a local regulation which to me is acceptable. I'll admit to being torn. I detest the regulations but I do think there are some which will do some level of good. Or, I may actually have ballonophobia.
- PrettyScrapbooker04/08/15 03:22 PM
The Goodyear blimp is made with a polyester skin (which is a plastic). I guess it is illegal to land on the island. It would have to immediately go into a plastic bag and into the landfill. Unless you argue that a blimp is not a balloon. Depends how they they wrote the actual text.
    - Padraighin04/08/15 04:22 PM

It's not a balloon. It's a dirigible, an airship.

- MassGuy204/08/15 04:48 PM

There once was a man from Nantucket
Who bought helium balloons from Pawtucket
When the tethers all failed, sending the balloons all assail,
He was charged with killing a halibut.

- Donleavy04/08/15 05:35 PM

Besides, it's a waste of a precious, nonrenewable element and commodity. There is a finite amount on earth, and, once helium is gone (it escapes gravity), it can't be reclaimed.

- captaingrandpa04/08/15 09:58 PM

Very little of the balloons and other plastic trash from Cape Cod end up on Nantucket - most of it drifts out into the deep blue sea where it joins the rest of the plastic human detritus that is swiftly transforming the oceans of the world into an enormous trash dump. Anyone who has sailed in the Sargasso Sea or in many parts of the Pacific Ocean can attest to the endless accumulation of human trash hundreds and even thousands of miles from land. And anyone who does an autopsy on an albatross in the Antarctic is likely to find human plastic trash in its gut, mistaken by the bird for food - in most cases it is the cause of death.

- user_131306704/08/15 11:18 PM

We find balloons all over the beaches,ponds and offshore waters when fishing. Trash is trash, whether it's thrown on the ground, or released into the air.

  - Rileysdad04/09/15 03:20 PM

  Um, are you sure those are balloons?

- Rolling104/09/15 02:23 PM

THC is ok even though there's 40-70 % more in each toke ???

- Thesecretshopper04/09/15 02:32 PM

"wont be able to SELL OR USE any type of balloon that can be inflated with “lighter-than-air gas,” such as helium. The measure covers plastic, latex, and Mylar balloons" Tubes in tires for cars are technically a balloon that can be inflated with a lighter than air gas. My truck tires are filled with Nitrogen, I am sure many of theirs are too. illegal. Don't seal any water in a zip-lock bag (plastic) because if you then heat it up it will be illegal because water vapor is lighter than air. Weather balloons.... illegal now. Condoms. They can be inflated so those are out. So much for safe sex on Nantucket. Bad news for the man from there, but on second thought probably doesn't use them. It looks like glass tubes are ok, so all those neon lights should be safe. Display them proudly Nantucket... Good times, good times

- ServerNotServant04/09/15 04:13 PM

Smart move. One morning I picked up 60+ balloons on Cisco beach in about a 1-mile stretch. It's littering when people release the balloons, and they think nothing of it.

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Danes join European neighbors in outlawing sex with animals

Apr 22, 7:32 AM EDT ap.org

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) -- Denmark has outlawed bestiality, putting the small Scandinavian country in line with several European neighbors, including Germany, Sweden and Norway.

In a 91-75 vote Tuesday, Danish lawmakers approved banning sex with animals. Five abstained.

The law proposal had been introduced in February by Denmark's farming minister, Dan Joergensen, who wanted to tighten the law on animal welfare and protection. In April, he said offenders "must be made aware that we find maltreatment of animals absolutely unacceptable."

Denmark's Animal Ethics Council had opposed the law, saying existing laws which allow bestiality except in cases where the animal can be proved to have suffered were enough.

As of July 1, a person found guilty of having had sexual relations with an animal faces fines or prison terms.

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'No pooing': village tells pilgrims in north Spain

'No pooing': village tells pilgrims in north Spain

Published: 09 Apr 2015 12:16 GMT+02:00

A village in northern Spain has put up signs to stop pilgrims pooping on their doorsteps when they pass through on their pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella.

In recent days the signs prohibiting defecation have appeared in the hamlet of Lastres in the Lugo province of Galicia.

The signs have been posted by residents who complain that pilgrims often "leave deposits" on their way through the village which lies on the Camino de Santiago, sometimes in the street right in front of their homes.

The notices appear next to other signs asking people not to drop litter but none of the residents will admit to having been the one to stick them up.

"Lastres is a tiny village with very few residents," a hotel owner from the next town along the route told The Local.

"But it's a common problem. People living in places on the Camino de Santiago understandably do get fed up if pilgrims don't behave respectfully," he said.

Last year more than 240,000 people traveled the camino to reach the shrine of St James - a pilgrimage that dates back to the ninth century - the majority on foot but others choose to do it by bicycle, or on horseback.

Pilgrims tend to stay in hostels and religious lodgings such as convents and monasteries along the route and use local facilities when they are available.

"From time to time we have had complaints from individual landowners about pilgrims going to the loo on their property," admitted Maite Moreno from the Federation of Friends of the Camino de Santiago, the organization that oversees the pilgrimage paths.

"But this is the first time I have heard of a community doing something to try and stop it," she told The Local.

"The problem is that people go when they need to go. We would encourage pilgrims to be thoughtful about this but we don't issue them with rules or anything," she said.

"There is no official guide to being a good pilgrim but we expect people to use their common sense, be polite and of course pick up after themselves," she added.

Some in the village of Lastres say the signage is already showing benefits. "People definitely notice them, they stop and take pictures," Jose Ramon, a resident of Lastres told local Galician newspaper El Progreso.

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Ohio 'Amish Paranormal' investigator accused of having sex with 14-year-old

Next: U.S. Bureau of Land Management seeks volunteer residents for haunted ghost town
April 16, 2015 12:17 AM MST

Ohio 'Amish Paranormal' investigator accused of having sex with 14-year-old
Photo courtesy of Facebook via Amish Paranormal Society

A ghost hunter from Ohio is being accused of having sex with a 14-year-old. The man allegedly sent nude photos to the teen on Facebook and then they met at a nearby park to search for ghosts but ended up having sex instead.

Darrin Troyer of Dover, Ohio was arrested for having sex with a minor. The 48-year-old is being accused of sending nude photos to a 14-year-old on Facebook, then later meeting with the victim to have sex at a secluded location. Troyer claims that he thought the teen was an adult. He was charged with one count of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor which is a fourth-degree felony and currently being held in the Tuscarawas County Jail.

Troyer runs the Ohio-based paranormal group Amish Paranormal Society out of Navarre. Troyer said that they specialize in doing residential paranormal investigations, coming into people's homes and gathering evidence of ghosts and the afterlife.

The teen's family members found out that the 14-year-old was meeting with an older adult for sex and they contacted the sheriff's department. A parent surrendered the teen's computer to forensics to be investigated. Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Detective Cathy Bickford took over the teen's Facebook profile and continued conversations with Troyer posing as the teen.

Detective Bickford said that Troyer talked with the teen about ghost hunting and that they met at Dover City Park to look for spirits. After meeting at the park, the two ended up having sex. According to Chief Deputy Orvis Campbell of the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office, they went to the park several times to meet for sex. Bickford posing as the teen, arranged to meet Troyer at the park on March 30 where Troyer was promptly arrested.

The Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant to retrieve computers and a cell phone that Troyer used for the crime. Investigators applied for an additional search warrant to go through the devices to look for communication between the two. Detective Bickford says it is unclear how long Troyer has been meeting with the teenager but it has been going on for some time. If convicted, Troyer joins a long list of sex offenders involved in the paranormal hobby.

Troyer is currently being held on $100,000 bail in the Tuscarawas County Jail. Detective Bickford asks that anyone with information on the case is urged to call her at 330-339-7713 or contact the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office.

Ohio man accused of scheduling ghost hunts then cancelling and keeping the money

examiner.com

April 18, 2015 12:21 PM MST

Ohio man accused of scheduling ghost hunts then cancelling and keeping the money
Photo courtesy of Facebook

An Ohio paranormal enthusiast is being accused of committing fraud through PayPal. The man is allegedly scheduling ghost hunts up to a year in advance then later cancelling them and not refunding his customers the money.

Dave Goldinger of the Akron Paranormal & Entity Research paranormal group is being accused by paranormal investigators of stealing their money. According to Goldinger's customers, he charged them for two paranormal investigations last year that were scheduled for this year. Goldinger supposedly set up Waverly Hills Sanatorium for May 17 and South Pittsburg Hospital for June 20. On February, Goldinger told them that PayPal had lost the money.

"Dave has not refunded my money or anyone else's. He claims that he sent the Waverly Hills Sanatorium the money but that PayPal sent it to Waverly Heights. In February he started his story that PayPal was to blame," customer Taryn Linstedt said.

Goldinger has been accused of running this scam in the past. He allegedly schedules an event up to a year in advance and then he collects money from them through PayPal. After a few months pass when he has collected everyone's money, the events are then cancelled and Goldinger pockets the money claiming that PayPal is responsible.

Victims of the scam can't get a refund from PayPal because the time limit that they have to get a refund of 45 days lapses. Up until November of last year, PayPal had a 45-day return policy but they increased it to 180 days.

Last summer, former "Paranormal State" television personality Ryan Buell was accused of running the same PayPal scam on paranormal enthusiasts. He announced on his Facebook and Twitter pages that he was cancelling a lecture tour that fans paid for through PayPal. Customers for the events couldn't get refunds because the 45-day time limit had passed. Buell still hasn't refunded fans the money.

"I can confirm that these payments are in no way held by PayPal as they are still in the

seller's PayPay account after buyer's payments were successfully completed. A customer can request a refund by sending the seller an email. Ask the seller to go to the Transaction Details page for the transaction and click Issue Refund. A buyer can request a refund up to 60 days after they pay for a service or item," a PayPal rep said.

This isn't the first time that Goldinger has been under fire by former friends and fellow peers in the paranormal field. He was accused of threatening and stalking people on the internet. Various witnesses accused him of being an internet bully and using Facebook to attack people.

"I know for a fact, I have talked to over fifty women, who are my friends, that have showed me emails, which I still have copies of, that he stalks them. He stalks women. He threatens people. I have a three-year-old son and if he ever threatens my son I will be going to jail," victim Allan Mellinger said. "One woman had him in her house and he attempted to rape her. People have sent me stuff that he has sent to them, threatening them. A female cast member of 'Ghost Hunters' even had to put a restraining order on him," he continued.

According to Mellinger, Goldinger threatens to burn down people's houses, cut their brake lines, or harm their family. Mellinger says that he has numerous emails from various women that Goldinger has threatened online. He also mentioned that Goldinger has a top ten enemy list and he is number three on that list.

"There was one case that he worked on where he went in this woman's house and went in this woman's refrigerator and made a sandwich without the woman's permission. If that would have been my house I would have said don't let the door hit you where the good lord split you," Mellinger said.

Mellinger went on to say that people have been scammed by Goldinger from paranormal events. On one particular occasion, people have even paid his bills. Just last year, Christina George set up a GoFundMe page for Goldinger to get funds to pay his bills and to buy a new car.

"I have been active against this guy for the last few years. I got emails from people. I stood against him, I stood up to him. I have never backed down from this guy but every battle I try to win or try to fight with somebody, it seems like he gets ahead more and more," Mellinger said.

Another victim, Judi Giramonti, a former administrator of Goldinger's Facebook group APER Paranormal Family, was told to block anyone that didn't agree with him. Giramonti also claims that Goldinger and his friend Mitzi Spicer Gilliam have tried to hijack her paranormal convention. Goldinger has responded publicly on Facebook and threatened to defriend anyone who is friends with his so-called bashers.

"All of these false accusations will soon come to a halt and charges will be filed. I am keeping up on all of your bashing and lies told about me. Evidence is being gathered against several people," Goldinger said in response to the allegations. "I will be removing this page as soon as my team has pretty much split up. Five out of eight of our members have left the team to

form their own. I am growing tired of the drama and mistrust among some people. I will be leaving the field as an investigator to concentrate on running the Stagecoach Inn," He said earlier today.

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Kent Acott
April 12, 2015, 1:47 pm

Old jail shows the way in ghostly stakes - The West Australian

Old jail shows the way in ghostly stakes

British visitor Ray Williams likes taking moody photographs.

And that was his goal during a February tour of Fremantle Prison.

He waited for the rest of his tour party to leave the gallows room before composing a photograph that would include the noose and hanging equipment.

He took the shot with his hand-held Nikon D7000 and thought nothing more of it.

But two months later, when Mr Williams went back to look at his photographic efforts, he made a startling discovery.

The picture appeared to show a shadowy dark figure that Mr Williams could not explain.

"I don't believe in ghosts, but I have to admit it was strange," he said.

"I was the only person in the room and I don't think there was anyone or anything that could have cast such a shadow."

Of course, there is probably a perfectly logical explanation for the apparition - taking a photograph with a long exposure can generate some unusual images.

But these types of stories and photographs contribute to Fremantle Prison's reputation as one of WA's most haunted buildings.

"Throughout the prison's long history, there have been a number of reports of what could be described as paranormal," prison marketing and events manager Amberlee Hong said. "Both visitors and staff have reported strange experiences which range from feeling uneasy in certain areas, unexplained drops in temperature, capturing orbs and spectres in photos or seeing full apparitions.

"A number of investigations have been performed over the years - however, there has been no conclusive evidence to date that the prison is haunted, excluding the feedback from those who have had an experience."

Forty-four people were executed in the jail and the small gallows room is often described as eerie and cold.

Down the road, the Fremantle Arts Centre - a former asylum - has also had its share of ghost stories over its 165-year life. According to reports, doors open and close, faces appear at windows and lights and unexplained images appear in photographs.

One of the ghosts is said to be a former female asylum inmate who became deranged after her daughter was abducted.

She is believed to have jumped to her death from a first-floor window and her ghost wanders the building

searching for her daughter.

Hotels also appear to be popular with ghost stories.

Kalamunda Hotel is supposedly haunted by a young unmarried woman who became pregnant.

Too ashamed to face the world, she apparently killed herself in Room 24. The Rose and Crown Hotel in Guildford is said to be spooked by the ghost of Charlie the bullock driver, who apparently caught his wife cheating on him and killed her in the hotel.

And it has been said that the Mahogany Creek Inn is haunted by the ghost of bushranger Moondyne Joe. Among the other more unusual stories are the claims of a headless ghost riding a horse around Kenwick and a 1930s golfer turning up on the fairways of Mt Lawley Golf Club.

And there seem to be plenty of haunted places in rural WA.

There have been frequent reports of "paranormal activity" at Oakabella Homestead between Geraldton and Northhampton, with doors opening and closing by themselves, strange lights and smells and temperature falls.

The ghost of Ted Leighton is said to appear at the Cuballing Hotel in winter and to cause trouble if any part of the hotel has been changed or modified.

And the old bakery at Nannup, though abandoned for many years, is said to be often filled with voices of people ordering bread and banging pots and pans.

The West Australian

The West Australian

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On the year of its 150th birthday, the Montana Historical Society gets an anonymous surprise

20 hours ago helenair.com

MHS Creation Document

“This is the most important document that has probably come through these doors in a while,” MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said Friday as he looked over the document in the historical society's archive.

2015-04-13T06:00:00Z 2015-04-13T14:45:12Z On the year of its 150th birthday, the Montana Historical Society gets an anonymous surpriseALEXANDER DEEDY Independent Record Helena Independent Record

The Montana Historical Society received an envelope last Wednesday that had no return address, an illegible postmark and was 63 cents short on postage.

Inside was a stark piece of copy paper with the handwritten message:

“I think you may have an interest in the attached.”

In this case the anonymous sender was correct. The staff’s first reaction?

"Holy s**t"

Sandwiched between the handwritten note and two other pieces of paper was the original act that created the Montana Historical Society on Feb. 2, 1865, handwritten and signed by territorial Gov. Sidney Edgerton.

“This is the most important document that has probably come through these doors in a while,” MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said.

The historical society waited before announcing they received the document to ensure it was the original.

Rich Aarstad, the society’s senior archivist, examined the papers and compared it to other documents MHS has from the era. A homemade metal clip that fastens both pieces of paper together was his first clue that the document was authentic. A certified impression in the paper, the quality of the paper and the handwriting all matched other documents.

Without detailed testing it’s impossible to say with 100 percent certainty the document is original, but all the evidence points to it being the real thing.

The historical society had copies of the act in file, but never knew where the original was. It was just assumed the document had been lost, misplaced or destroyed sometime over the last century and a half. Now with its anonymous surfacing the act's story is up only for speculation.

Aarstad and Whittenberg figure it would likely have been signed and sent straight to the territorial secretary.

The historical society didn't become the official keeper of all state documents until the 1970s, so as a state document the act would have likely been stored in a building in Virginia City, the territorial capital at the time.

It's classification as a state document rather than a historical artifact likely saved the act, because in 1874 documents kept by the historical society were destroyed in a fire.

In 1875, the territorial legislature packed up and moved the capital to Helena, where state documents were housed in the basement of the Capitol upon its completion.

If the act ever made it that far it didn't stay, changing hands sometime during the ensuing decades from the state's archives to the ownership of whoever proceeds the anonymous donor.

"I didn't know if the original existed," Aarstad said. Until last Wednesday.

"That's one of the beauties of this place. This kind of stuff happens here," he added.

Besides the act and the note, the envelope also contained a copy of a 1908 letter sent to the librarian for the historical society at the time, detailing the origination of the MHS, and a clipping of a recent editorial in the Billings Gazette that called for the 2015 Legislature to approve funds for a new historical society building.

"It leads me to think whoever this is knew what they were doing and knew when they were doing it," Whittenberg said.

Word of the document's appearance prompted some legislators and other government workers to inquire about the act late last week.

"This gesture is a testament to the value that the historical society has provided to millions of Montanans since it was founded more than 150 years ago," Gov. Steve Bullock said in a statement. "The exhibits in the Montana Historical Society demonstrate the rich history of our state, it is time we had a building that is worthy of that heritage."

The act itself has been copied and the original will be kept filed in historical society storage, where its current condition will be best preserved.

"It's in extraordinarily good shape, whoever had it took very good care of it," Aarstad said.

He said the act is the first document MHS received from the first territorial Legislature with

Gov. Sidney Edgerton's signature and will probably make appearances as exhibits rotate.

The actual document may stay stored away, but the excitement of its arrival can't be boxed up.

"The staff is just electric in the building," Tom Cook, the society's spokesman, said.

"It was one of the most exciting days of my career here at MHS," MHS Research Center Manager Molly Kruckenberg said in a press release. "To start your day with the return of a historic document to a place that can preserve it for future generations is amazing. To have it be our founding document is incredible."

Kruckenberg said she hopes whoever sent in the document comes forward so more information can be gathered. Either way, the historical society thanked the anonymous donor for sending in the act.

Alexander Deedy can be reached at 447-4081 or alexander.deedy@helenair.com

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Oregon Woman Says 'Bigfoot' Watched Her Taking a Bath - Cryptozoology News

cryptozoologynews.com

Posted on May 5 2015 - 7:11pm by Cryptozoology News

Ore. — An Oregon woman says she had two encounters with a 'Bigfoot' creature in two separate incidents over the span of three years.

bigfoot california

Tara, a resident of a small town in southern Oregon who didn't reveal her last name, says she was driving home from work late at night when she spotted the creature on the road.

"We lived up the river. I worked the night shift at a pizza place in town. I didn't get off work until 11 p.m., so by the time I was heading home it was almost midnight," she told Wes Germer, co-host of the Sasquatch Chronicles podcast last Sunday. "There was this curvy road going along the river, so I came around the corner and I saw this thing."

Tara, being "dumbfounded" by the unusual sighting, says she slowed down to take a good look at the reported animal. She claims the beast was behind a tree watching her car go by.

"It just seemed very curious about the car and the headlights," she said about the 1991 encounter.

She described the alleged cryptid as a 8-feet-tall ape-like being with dark brown fur all over it.

Tara is certain that what she saw was not a human or an animal she had ever seen before.

"It was definitely not human-like, it had hair all over it and it was definitely not a bear. It had the Bigfoot-looking face, We were used to seeing bears and bobcats and mountain lions, and it was none of those," she explained.

The next day, after telling her family about the incident, something else was revealed. Her dad had reportedly seen the same animal in the area just one day before.

But, according to Tara, that was not the last time she saw the creature. Three years later, she came across the creature again near Willow Creek, California.

"We were at the house of my husband's parents, it was a cabin. There was a lot of land and vineyards around," she said.

She says they were walking back to the cabin when they spotted a pile of human-shaped feces. But, she says, it was way bigger.

"It was long shaped. If you put it in a milk jug, it was probably almost two gallons worth. It had cherry pits and stuff like that, that a carnivore wouldn't eat. It was stuff that a bear would eat but it wasn't shaped like bear scat. I was talking to my husband saying 'this is crazy!'"

Later that day, the eyewitness reports, she was taking an evening bath when she noticed someone was watching her through bathroom's window.

"I was in there for quite a while. I thought my husband, who is a practical joker, had gone outside and was looking through the window, I said 'I see you!', I am just talking to it. By the time I went out, everybody was still sitting in the room."

But she believes it was the same creature, once again, because "the window was 8 feet off the ground".

"There weren't any chairs that my husband could have used. You could see head and eyes, something watched me. It dawned on me it was a Bigfoot. I definitely could see a head form, moving back and forth. There were eyes in there," she said.

And Tara, who admits she was a Bigfoot believer prior to the first incident , says her skeptical husband doesn't believe that what she saw was what she thinks it was.

"My husband didn't believe in anything, so it was pointless to talk to him about it. I never brought it up again, he kind of made fun of it. He makes fun of people believing in Bigfoot."

Some Bigfoot research organizations, such as the BFRO, theorize that the cryptid exhibits a natural curiosity toward domesticated animals, loud noises like cars or chainsaws, and "especially the screaming of children at play".

Cindy Barone, a 13-year-old girl from Michigan, claimed to have found a Bigfoot in her barn in 1981, saying she had been able to touch the creature's "fur".

In 2014, a 10-year-old boy from Kentucky claimed he saw a Bigfoot creature staring at him through a window outside his home. Eight months later, another boy said he had spotted an albino Sasquatch in Maine. Just a few days went by when an 8-year-old Canadian boy reportedly snapped a few pictures of what some researchers believed to be the elusive primate.

Bigfoot sightings frequently emanate from the areas of Oregon, Washington and northern California as many researchers believe the states' dense forestry could be the ideal habitat for an undiscovered primate in North America.

The *Sasquatch Chronicles* podcast, formerly known as *Bigfoot Hotspot*, began airing in 2013 and is also co-hosted by researchers Shannon Legro, William Jevning and Woody Pratt.

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Oregon's Lost Lake is disappearing through a strange hole

Melissa Breyer (@MelissaBreyer) Science / Natural Sciences April 30, 2015

treehugger.com

Oregeon Lost Lake draining through hole

Bye bye, lake. Where it's going, nobody knows for sure.

Just off U.S. Highway 20 in Central Oregon there is a lake with a curious fate. Every winter the aptly-named Lost Lake fills up, before slowly draining through a hole, drying up and making way for a meadow.

The hole has been there as long as anyone can remember, Jude McHugh, spokeswoman with the Willamette National Forest, told The Bulletin. And while the hole may appear to be one of those oddest of mysteries that nobody can quite figure out, the explanation is rather simple. The volcanic landscape of the area gives way to a number of quirky geologic traits – the one responsible for swallowing the lake is a lava tube. The tunnel-like structure is formed when flowing lava hardens near the surface but continues to flow downwards, and the inner lava escapes before hardening. The result, a tube that opens to the surface and leads to the mysterious depths below.

McHugh says it's unclear exactly where the water goes, but it possibly seeps into the porous subsurface underground, refilling the expansive aquifer that feeds springs on both sides of the Cascades.

McHugh said there have been numerous attempts – unauthorized and discouraged – to plug the leak, so to speak. Over the years, workers from the U.S. Forest Service have found car parts, engines and other debris in the hole. Success in those endeavors, however, would only lead to local flooding as the area has been planned with the fickle nature of the ever-disappearing lake in mind.

"If anyone was ever successful at plugging it, which we're not sure they could do, it would just result in the lake flooding, and the road. It's an important part of how the road was designed," she said.

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Oshun, African Goddess of Love and Sweet Waters

ancient-origins.net

Oshun, African Goddess of Love

15 April, 2015 - 14:07 dhwty

Oshun, African Goddess of Love and Sweet Waters

Across many ancient civilizations throughout the world, love was placed under the domain of a certain deity, usually, but not in all cases, a goddess. In the Classical world, for instance, there were Venus and Aphrodite, love goddesses of the Roman and Greek pantheons respectively. In the ancient Near East, love was personified in such goddesses as Ishtar and Astarte. Further afield in West Africa, the Yoruba people believe in a love goddess by the name of Oshun.

The Yoruba people inhabit the south-western part of modern day Nigeria and the southern part of Benin. Practitioners of traditional Yoruba religion believe in a pantheon of 401 gods (known as Orisha) who govern various aspects of the world and human life. Although Oshun (also spelt Osun) is regarded principally as a goddess of love, there are other aspects to this Orisha as well. One of the most important roles that Oshun plays is that of the goddess of the sweet waters and the protective deity of the River Oshun in Nigeria. Alongside this river is a sacred grove, probably the last in Yoruba Culture, dedicated to Oshun.

The Osun River, Nigeria

The Osun River, Nigeria (Image source)

The Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove is a dense forest on the outskirts of Osogbo town, western Nigeria. In the past, sacred groves were commonly found in areas where the Yoruba lived, and every town would have had one. Over time, these sacred groves were either abandoned or shrank in size, apart from the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove. This sacred grove contains 40 shrines, 2 palaces, as well as many sculptures and works of arts. Due to its unique status, the Osun-Osongbo Sacred Grove was inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005.

The Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Wikimedia Commons)

The Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove

In one story, villages from a nearby area were migrating in search of water, and settled in along the river near the present town of Osogbo. What the new settlers did not know was that this land belonged to Oshun. One day, when the community was preparing the ground for the planting season, a tree fell into the river, and a voice was heard from the river saying: "You have destroyed my dyeing pots." This filled the villagers with fear, and they sought to appease the goddess. They were successful in their undertaking, and Oshun advised the settlers to move to the upper part of the river, for humans and spirits could not live together. The villagers complied with Oshun's command, and the former settlement became the Osun-Osongbo Sacred Grove.

Temple of Oshun in the Sacred Grove

Temple of Oshun in the Sacred Grove (Wikimedia Commons)

Although Oshun governs love and the sweet waters, she is also regarded as a highly benevolent deity. Oshun is said to be the protector of the poor and the mother of all orphans. It is Oshun who brings to them their needs in this life. Additionally, Oshun is regarded as a healer of the sick, the bringer of song, music and dance, as well as prosperity and fertility. Oshun is also depicted as a teacher, who taught the Yoruba agriculture, culture and mysticism. She also taught them the art of divination using cowrie shells, as well as songs, chants and meditations taught to her by her father Obatala, the first of the created Orishi.

Kneeling Female Figure, Devotee of Oshun. Honolulu Museum of Art (Wikimedia Commons)

In art, Oshun is depicted like many of her counterparts from other cultures. Oshun is commonly shown as a beautiful, charming, sensual and coquettish young woman. In addition to her natural beauty, Oshun is also adorned with such ornaments as gold jewellery, brass bracelets, beads, mirrors and elaborate fans. It is also claimed that Oshun is attracted to all things that glitter and are shiny. In some stories, Oshun is depicted as a mermaid with a fish tail, perhaps as an allusion to her status as the goddess of sweet waters.

During the African diaspora, Oshun was brought to the Americas, and was subsequently

Kneeling Female Figure, Devotee of Oshun.

adopted into the pantheons that branched out of the traditional African belief system. Today, Oshun is still honoured in Nigeria in the annual ceremony called Ibo-Osun, as well as the 12 day Osun-Osogbo that takes place at the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove each year at the end of June to the beginning of August.

Featured image: An artist's depiction of Oshun. Photo source: www.reunionblackfamily.com.

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Paranormal expert 'open minded' as to whether ghosts exist

April 22nd 2015 derbytelegraph.co.uk

Paranormal expert 'open minded' as to whether ghosts exist

By Derby Telegraph | Posted: September 26, 2014

- Dr Ciarán O'Keeffe is talking at an event at Derby's Quad Arts Centre about his 25-year career.

IN his quest to learn the truth about whether ghosts exist, Dr Ciarán O'Keeffe has carried out more than 1,500 investigations during the past 25 years.

So, what's his conclusion?

"I'm completely open minded to the possibility," he says. "I'm not dismissing it, or believing it."

Dr O'Keeffe says there is plenty of evidence – but none that is conclusive.

"Out of all the investigations I've done, I would say I've had maybe 100-150 experiences of what other people would say are paranormal.

"The problem is, as a parapsychologist, I know about the psychology side and all the alternative explanations that make you feel as if you've had a paranormal experience.

"I've seen hundreds of photos and videos and some are really convincing. But how do I know they've not been manipulated?"

Next Saturday, Dr O'Keeffe will talk about his 25-year career in front of an audience at Quad. The session forms part of the arts centre's supernatural season.

Those who attend won't get answers to questions such as "is there life after death?" but they will get a fascinating insight into Dr O'Keeffe's paranormal-exploring career, which has spanned laboratories, churches and television sets.

In 2004, he was one of two scientists who tested the powers of mediums who claimed to receive messages from beyond the grave.

By implementing controlled experimental conditions, Dr O'Keeffe and fellow psychologist Professor Richard Wiseman, of the University of Hertfordshire, were able to ensure the five

mediums whom they were testing could not cheat or use psychological tricks.

In doing so, they found that none were able to produce accurate readings.

Dr O'Keeffe, who is currently a psychology lecturer at Buckinghamshire New University, said: "There was a definite conclusion from that experiment that those five mediums didn't show any ability to communicate with the dead.

"I don't think they were frauds – that implies some sort of deliberate attempt to dishonestly get money from clients. I think they genuinely believed they had an ability.

"Over time, they would have learnt techniques and mistaken things as being paranormal."

Prof Wiseman also refused to condemn the five mediums. In an interview with The Guardian, he argued mediums "have their uses".

He told the newspaper: "They're cheaper than psychotherapists and they might help people with bereavement."

Dr O'Keeffe said he could understand his counterpart's point but did not necessarily agree with it. "The problem I have with it is people who see a medium can be quite vulnerable," he said. "A medium has no psychological training at all."

Other points of discussion during Dr O'Keeffe's talk are set to include whether "psychics" ought to be drafted in to help solve crimes. Dr O'Keeffe – whose interest in paranormal activity began after he watched the 1984 film Ghostbusters as a teenager – said psychics could play a role when detectives have been unable to crack a case.

He said: "They will be able to think so far out the box that it could lead the police to a route they've not considered before. That's the positive side.

"The negative side is the cost of following up what the psychic says. In the case of Madeline McCann, a psychic could potentially come up with 2,000 leads – what would the cost on police resources be if they followed up each one?"

Dr O'Keeffe also plans to talk about religious parapsychology – the link between psychic phenomena and religion.

This includes exploring the concept of "miracle blood". He said: "There is a small monastery in Madrid that is said to have the blood of Saint Pantaleon (kept in a glass orb in a solid state).

"Every July 25, they bring it up to the altar and it turns liquid for that day only.

"I saw it happen once. The problem is no-one is allowed to analyse the blood as the church won't let you. If it's not a miracle, we're probably looking at candle wax. When it cools it turns solid and when it's hot it's liquid."

Dr O'Keeffe said the talk would also be shaped by questions from the audience. "I can go off on a tangent," he said. "They will have difficulty getting me out of the place!"

WHAT:Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe: Researching The Weird and Wonderful.

WHEN: Saturday, October 4.

WHERE: Quad, Market Place.

TICKETS: £5 to £6. To book, call Derby 290 606.

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Paranormal fraud haunting town of Tombstone

Tuesday, May 5 2015 12:01 PM EDT

kvoa.com

Posted: May 05, 2015 8:07 PM PDT Updated: May 05, 2015 8:13 PM PDT

Written By Domenica Fuller

With tickets sold for hundreds of dollars, local businesses notified and reserved for the Haunting of Tombstone event. Unfortunately, the event tricked the visitors and the businesses.

With tickets sold for hundreds of dollars, local businesses notified and reserved for the Haunting of Tombstone event. Unfortunately, the event tricked the visitors and the businesses.

TOMBSTONE - An event planner supposedly tricked people out of thousands of dollars this past weekend in Tombstone.

Carol Malone planned a weekend paranormal event called "A Haunting of Tombstone." From May 1 through May 3, tourists paid for tickets expecting a weekend of paranormal speakers, celebrities and even a ghost tour. However, local business owners are claiming she skipped town without paying them and without having any events set up for the tourists.

"We [were] counting on making this money. Other people that contacted us and wanted to come here for the weekend," said Stacy Corbon, co-owner of Sister Paranormal Investigators. "We had to turn them away because we were booked."

Now, local business owners are worried it could harm their "tourist town".

"I felt that our town had been cheated. We thrive on people coming to our town. This lady [took money from] so many people. That could devastate Tombstone," said Corbon.

Tombstone Marshal said Malone was detained, but has since been released. They are now planning on passing the case to the state attorney general.

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Paupers' graveyard to become remembrance garden - BBC News

bbc.com

- 3 May 2015
- From the section London

A paupers' burial ground in south-east London, where thousands of prostitutes are thought to be buried, is set to be turned into a public garden.

Cross Bones, which runs parallel to Borough High Street, Southwark, has a history dating back to medieval times.

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) said landowner Transport for London (TfL) was leasing it the burial ground so the trust could turn it into a garden.

BOST said the prostitutes were denied a Christian burial.

Joseph Bonner from the trust said the Bishop of Winchester was thought to have granted licenses to these prostitutes, known as the Winchester Geese.

Friends of Cross Bones have held a vigil at the site every year since 2004

The burial ground is thought to have been closed in 1853 due to it being overcrowded.

Excavations carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in the 1990s found graveyards with bodies piled on top of each other.

For the last 20 years local playwright John Constable and the Friends of Cross Bones have led a vigil at the gates and has been campaigning for the site to be turned into a garden of remembrance.

He said Cross Bones represented "ordinary Londoners - honest, hard working but very poor people who really built the city but are not generally remembered."

It was first known as a "single women's burial ground", Mr Constable said.

'Not developed'

BOST said initial grant funding had been secured to make the site safe, add a gate and lay out the first raised bed to protect the human remains.

"We need to raise a further £60,000 to turn this special place into a garden with regular

opening hours, for all to enjoy, and remember," Mr Constable added.

Graeme Craig, TfL's director of commercial development, said the grounds were part of a much larger site earmarked for commercial development.

"We have agreed that the identified burial ground will not be developed, and will be retained as open space as part of the comprehensive development of the site," he said.

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Peggy, The Haunted Doll: Video Of Evil Spirit Possessed Doll Causes Viewers To Have Chest Pains, Nausea, And Headaches

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Odd News Posted: April 17, 2015

Peggy, The Haunted Doll: Video Of Evil Spirit Possessed Doll Causes Viewers To Have Chest Pains, Nausea, And Headaches

A paranormal investigator, Jayne Harris, claims that many people have reported symptoms, such as chest pains, nausea, and migraine headaches, after viewing photos and videos of a blonde doll called Peggy, believed to be possessed by an evil spirit.

According to Harris, who runs "Haunted Dolls," an organization in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, that provides services in the area of paranormal phenomena, such as psychic mediumship, exorcism, and the occult, Peggy is evidently possessed by an evil spirit that causes people to have bad experiences when they see her image or come into contact with her.

[Warning: Videos and images show "haunted" doll; view at your own risk.]

Haunted 100 Year Old Doll Caught on Tape
HAUNTED GHOST PLAY DOLL CAUGHT ON VIDEO TAPE: THE DELIVERY!
Haunted Dolls Paranormal ~ New boy wants to be left alone K2 EMF results
The "3 Dolls" Male CLEAR EVP!

Harris became immersed in the study of paranormal phenomena, especially spirit possession, after the death of her cousin in 2000, according to the *Daily Mail*.

She said Peggy was sent to her by a previous owner who got rid of the doll after she became convinced that it was the cause of a series of terrifying experiences and illnesses.

The former owner was forced to seek the help of a local priest after experiencing persistent terrifying nightmares. But the priest was not able to help. She later fell ill with fever and became delirious. When she recovered from her illness she became firmly convinced that Peggy was to blame for her troubles.

> "She'd wake feeling hot and shaken. No matter where she moved the doll to in her home, the nightmares persisted. In September she became quite ill with a fever

and began suffering hallucinations. When she recovered, she saw no other option but to get rid of the doll as she was convinced it was at the center of all that had been happening."

Since she came into possession of the haunted doll, Harris says she has received messages from many paranormal enthusiasts around the world who have seen images and videos of the doll and claim that merely looking at an image or watching a video of Peggy has affected them adversely.

Many claimed they became unwell with chest pains, nausea, and migraine headaches. One woman said the monitor of her computer froze on an image of the doll and the room became mysteriously cold as she felt a sinister presence.

Another unfortunate lady experienced a heart attack after watching a video of the doll sitting with Harris in a car. The incident happened very recently, on March 16, according to the *Mirror*.

Yet another victim said light bulbs in her home began blowing up after she saw images of the doll and watched a video.

- Harris Conducts A Ritual With The Haunted Doll Peggy

> "If I had to guess, I'd say close to 80 people have came forward with experiences. One lady said that when she opened a photograph of Peggy, her computer froze on the picture and the room went cold.
>
> "She then said she felt someone in the room with her and could hear them moving around. She was messaging me at the time via Facebook asking me to quickly advise her on what to do.
>
> "I took Peggy down into an isolation area and requested that she cease her tormenting. Apparently everything returned to normal."

- Peggy The Haunted Doll

She began conducting investigations into Peggy's history after she confirmed the doll was indeed possessed. Several clues have emerged.

For instance, she and her Haunted Dolls team found that the spirit reacted unfavorably to a crucifix necklace the doll was forced to wear.

Four psychic mediums of the Haunted Dolls team conducted psychic "readings" and sensed that the spirit possessing the doll was "restless, frustrated and persecuted in life."

Some of the mediums said that Peggy could be possessed by the spirit of a Jewish person who died in the Holocaust.

Haunted Doll

> "A lot of people, including two mediums, have said they feel she has links to the Holocaust and was possibly Jewish. We have conducted automatic writing sessions with her in which the words 'star' and the name 'David' came up, so there is possibly a link there."

Other evidence suggests it might be the spirit of a woman born in Holland Park, London, 1940 and died of respiratory problems suspected to be asthma.

Harris said she has refused offers from psychics outside the Haunted Dolls team to expel the spirit from the doll. She has also declined invitations to paranormal events to show the doll. She says she plans to conduct private research into the intriguing case.

Peggy The Haunted Doll

Methods psychic mediums use to investigate spirits include "automatic writing sessions" where a medium communicates with a spirit by "automatically" writing on a piece of paper whatever comes to the medium's mind, believed to have been communicated by the spirit.

On one occasion, during an "automatic writing" session, the spirit caused a cryptic message to be communicated to a member of the team whose daughter was mentally ill, according to the *Daily Mail*.

Harris is the author of books on paranormal phenomena. She is due to release a book titled *What Dwells Within*, co-authored with Dan Weatherer in June.

The book gives details of some of her most memorable paranormal experiences.

[Images: Facebook/HauntedDollPage; YouTube/Jayne Harris]

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Pelicans solve fishy dilemma plaguing Boulder biologists

Ryan Haarer, KUSA.com

9news.com

635659529016818759-Still0429-00018

Pelicans solve fishy dilemma plaguing Boulder biologists. 9NEWS at 9 p.m. 04/29/15

Colorado Parks and Wildlife were debating between electroshock and chemicals to kill the thousands of goldfish pushing the native fish out of Teller Lake. But this week, they discovered that the pelicans nesting there are taking care of the problem for them.

BOULDER - Colorado Parks and Wildlife were debating between electroshock and chemicals to kill the thousands of goldfish pushing the native fish out of Teller Lake. But this week, they discovered that the pelicans nesting there are taking care of the problem for them.

"This is kind of Mother Nature taking care of things for us," CPW spokesperson Jennifer Curchill said.

The biologists that monitor the lake were out taking samples of fish there this week and saw that the number of goldfish dropped off significantly.

"I don't think any of us would have thought in just a couple of weeks pelicans would have cleaned the whole thing up," she said.

It's believed that someone dumped a few pet goldfish into Teller Lake just a few years ago. The numbers shot up and the domesticated fish began pushing the native fish out. Churchill says biologists only saw a few of the goldfish while doing tests this week.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife were debating between electroshock and chemicals to kill the thousands of goldfish pushing the native fish out of Teller Lake. But this week, they discovered that the pelicans nesting there are taking care of the problem for them. Colorado Parks and Wildlife were debating between electroshock and chemicals to kill the thousands of goldfish pushing the native fish out of Teller Lake. But this week, they discovered that the pelicans nesting there are taking care of the problem for them.

However, on Wednesday afternoon dozens could be seen in one corner of the lake. The fish, which have garnered international attention and have even been featured on Comedy Central, are now a must see for many area residents.

"I guess they are hiding in the reeds because they figure it's safer," said Oliver McBryan, out on a walk with his wife. "That's what I'd do if I knew 4,000 of my friends had been eaten," he joked.

They won't be able to hide much longer. Even with numbers dwindling, the dozens of pelicans are in a constant feeding frenzy. Churchill believes the birds will eventually move on to the native, tougher to spot fish when the goldfish disappear.

Pelicans in Colorado?

You heard right. This isn't the Brown Pelican typically seen along the oceans in southern and western United States. These birds are called American White Pelicans. They have wingspans that can reach 9-feet, in length according to Coloradobirdingtrail.com.

They migrate mainly to the Gulf of Mexico in the spring but have been known to make Colorado reservoirs and lakes their permanent, year round home. Churchill says they are seeing more of that.

(KUSA-TV © 2015 Multimedia Holdings Corporation)

- April 29, 2015, 7:58 p.m.

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Pensioner left £500,000 fortune to man who cleared his gutters for free
Oliver Wheaton
Wednesday 29 Apr 2015 7:06 pm
http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/29/pensioner-left-500000-fortune-to-man-who-cleared-his-gutters-for-free-5173768/

Pensioner left £500,000 fortune to man who cleared his gutters for free

Daniel sharp was left half-a-million pounds by Ronald Butcher (Picture: Richard Gittins / Champion News)

A builder who cleaned an elderly man's gutters for free has been left a fortune in the man's will.

Ronald Butcher, who was described as a 'private and quiet man', left builder Daniel Sharp £500,000 in his will, claiming a friendship was struck up between the two when Mr Sharp refused payment from the 75-year-old to clean his gutters.

However now the family of Mr Butcher, whose dead body lay undiscovered and decaying in his Enfield home for two months after his death, are disputing the will.

They claim Mr Sharp is 'lying' about his friendship with the pensioner, who altered his will to include Mr Sharp a few months before his death in 2013, and have asked Judge Leslie Anderson QC to revoke the will in favour of an earlier one which leaves his substantial fortune to them.

Richard Gittins / Champion News: 07948286566 champion.news.service@gmail.comnPicture shows the former home of Ronald Butcher in Russell Road, Enfield. Builder Daniel Sharp was left £500,000 in 75-year-old Mr Butcher's will after fixing guttering at the property for free.

Ronald Butcher's former home in Enfield (Picture: Richard Gittins / Champion News)
Mr Sharp said he was 'shocked' by Mr Butcher's will, however claims he had no influence on his elderly friend's last minute change to his will.

While the family accept that Mr Butcher was of sound mind when the will was made in 2013, they have pointed out the 'odd' nature of the alteration, arguing this should 'excite suspicion' over Mr Sharp's involvement.

Mr Sharp's lawyer said of Mr Butcher: 'He found a male friend in Mr Sharp, somebody he could chat to. They had a shared interest in DIY and he liked to hear about Mr Sharp's son.

'That is an explanation why he wanted to make the 2013 will.'

People Are Modifying Monitors to Make Gargantuan Geckos | Tetrapod Zoology, Scientific American Blog Network

By Darren Naish |
April 16, 2015

scientificamerican.com

People Are Modifying Monitors to Make Gargantuan Geckos

29

Print

A gargantuan gecko-type lizard - more than 1.3 m long - is held by the man who wishes to sell it. This is a screengrab from a video.

Over the last several days a consortium of people interested in herpetology, weird animals, animal lore, and special effects have worked together to help resolve an incredible and bizarre 'mystery'*. People in Indonesia (and perhaps elsewhere in tropical Asia) are modifying live monitor lizards to make them look like gargantuan Tokay geckos *Gekko gecko*.

* I'm putting 'mystery' in quotes for the benefit of those people who are already aware of the phenomenon discussed here, worked out what was going on, and made comments about it online. Well done on realising what was going on before the rest of us.

From a personal perspective, things began when my good friend and colleague C. M. Kosemen alerted me to an online video in which a man (apparently based in Indonesia) was filmed posing with a live lizard of surreal appearance. According to the man concerned (we'll call him Satria), the lizard was discovered on a geological survey and is now for sale (thanks to Karl Shuker for translating the text associated with Satria's video).

As you can see from the screengrabs here, Satria's lizard is a slow-walking, clumsy beast with a spotted dorsal patterning, grey background colour, and cylindrical tail. It has blunt-tipped toes without obvious claws, and you should be able to see from the screengrabs here that it has five digits on both its hands and feet. Furthermore, its digits are right in proportion and position for a lizard (showing that it isn't a weird crocodile or salamander). What makes it incredible is both its size (138 cm in total length: Satria even demonstrates this with a tape measure) and its oversized, broad, blunt-snouted head.

Needless to say, any gecko this size would be a record-holder. The largest known gecko – the recently extinct Delcourt's giant gecko *Hoplodactylus delcourti* (generally thought to be endemic to New Zealand, though this has been questioned) – has/had a total length of c 60

A tape measure is applied to the giant 'gecko' in Satria's video. The animal is said to be 138 cm long.

cm, and the Satria animal is more than twice as long.

Note the long, slender tail, the five-toed foot, five-fingered hand, and the blunt tips to the digits. The animal's right eye might be visible in this shot. It's gecko-like, but not like any gecko we know.

The animal just doesn't look right. It's gargantuan fat head looks somehow out of proportion compared to the rest of it, and it has a blundering, clumsy gait that doesn't look like that of a normal lizard. At one point during the video, the animal quickly shakes its head. This looks aggressive, but also looks like the action performed by an animal trying to shake something off its own body. We never see an open mouth and eyes are not visible.

This 'blundering' gait and huge, blunt-snouted head actually makes the creature look somewhat like a giant salamander, but that would be equally incredible: not only are there no salamanders of this sort in tropical Asia, the animal has – as we've just seen – five fingers (salamanders have four) and its tail is cylindrical in cross-section, not laterally compressed as is typical for giant salamanders.

As usual, there have been a few cries of "CGI!". But, no (budget, shadows, motion tracking. As Mike Keesey says, it's more parsimonious to assume that it's a real lizard). In fact, there *is* a very approximate similarity with the rather short-snouted, fat-headed Delcourt's giant gecko. Furthermore, the Satria lizard is Tokay-like in several respects, plus we already know that Tokays are remarkably variable *and* able to reach surprising sizes (up to 51 cm in total length) and proportions under some circumstances. Could the Satria lizard, then, really be a gargantuan Tokay: a freak individual, or a member of a hitherto overlooked population or closely related species? Well, no.

As noted by Brīiī Bēlūkhā, Raul Epiblast Diaz and other commenters, the animal's body and limb proportions, gait and behaviour are all un-gecko-like; additionally, Brian Engh has noted that the toes don't curl upwards with each step as is normal for Tokays and other adhesive-toed geckos, and why don't we see the animal gaping its mouth and preparing to bite when it raises its head? The enormous golden eyes should probably be visible if this were a real Tokay. The tail is long and slim, not fat and pseudo-turnip-shaped as it is in many big geckos. Herpetologist David Kirschner noted that the cautious walk and the way the animal is raising its forelimbs high as it steps indicate that it cannot see well or at all.

Based on all of these bits of data, we seem to be seeing a lizard that has been kitted out to look like a giant Tokay. It's a lizard in some sort of 'gecko suit'. I must point out that this was my immediately favoured option. Within a few seconds of watching the footage, and having ruled out the other contenders that came to mind (giant salamander or genuine fat-headed giant gecko), I was immediately thinking "non-gekkotan lizard kitted out to look like a giant

Tokays can be big, formidable lizards, sometimes more than 50 cm long in total. But they don't have the short-snouted, blunt head or other weird feature of the lizard in the Satria video. Image by Robert Michniewicz, CC BY-SA 3.0.

There are other fake giant Tokay videos online. In this one (viewable on youtube), what is very clearly a varanid with modified head, hands and feet is made out to be another over-sized Tokay.

Tokay". And I'm hardly the first, or only, person to come up with this suggestion, as you can see if you look at the comments attached to the original video (sorry, only available on facebook and not shared here).

What's especially damning is that there is precedent. Brian and others were able to find a few other videos online of lizards that are transparently non-gekkotan lizards (most likely varanids) modified to look like gargantuan Tokays. Yes, this is a thing. *People are modifying varanids (and other big lizards?) to make them look like enormous Tokays.* In one video (titled '47 inch Tuko') – it shows a modified varanid that's about 1.1 m long – the people modifying the lizard have stuck flattened flanges of some sort (maybe made from cardboard) onto the toes to make them look more gecko-like. The lizard in this video has a more realistic head than the one in Satria's video, but its long tail, body shape and proportions demonstrate that it's definitely a varanid modified to look like a giant Tokay.

Screengrab from another video, showing faked head on

In another video (titled 'Giant Tokai Gecko, Higanteng Tuko, Real or Fake?') we see what is very obviously a varanid (or other large lizard) in another 'gecko suit'. The animal is restrained by a collar and leash attached to the roof of the vivarium. Empty coke bottles are aligned alongside the animal to provide scale, and we're told that it's 1.4 m long.

Why are people doing something that I cannot help but regard as an act of extraordinary and horrible cruelty? It seems that the primary motive is profit: these tortured lizards are for

another poor lizard inside a 'gecko suit'. The lizard is restrained with a collar and leash. The coke bottles provide some indication of scale (though they're weird coke bottles and I'm not sure how long they are).

Blurry screengrab from video 'Giant Tokai Gecko, Higanteng Tuko, Real or Fake?' It's obviously fake. Poor lizard. Not only has the lizard (a varanid?) been given a fake Tokay-like head, it's also been painted with a Tokay-like pattern.

sale, and they're being fraudulently offered for purchase as novel, valuable animals. I am sad; I feel sorry for the lizards that are being abused here in the pursuit of profit. What happens to them at the end? If they really are encased in the 'gecko suits' described above, they're unable to feed or drink, and are going to die slowly, in stressed and uncomfortable fashion.

Geckos are amazing lizards, and we have learnt so much from them. They're also crucial ecosystem service-providers, keeping down numbers of harmful arthropod pests. Image by Nick Hobgood, CC BY-SA 2.0.

However, there's some underlying and fascinating cultural anthropology going on here that I'm intrigued about. As Memo and others point out, there's an existing 'tradition' whereby people fake images of gargantuan Tokays, a thing they do partly because Tokays are symbols of luck, prosperity and good health. Karl Shuker wrote a whole article on this issue here.

In fact, an extraordinary number of modern myths surround these lizards. They're said to be able to see into a person's future, to bring great luck, to be the direct descendants of ancient dragons, and, perhaps most remarkably, to somehow cure AIDS. For all these complaints about profiteering and unethical treatment of animals, could there be some 'well intentioned' adoration of geckos here? If so, can it be redirected to better benefit geckos as well as Indonesian people? I mean, it's all too easy to point fingers and appoint blame, but can we somehow use this 'cultural significance' to benefit geckos and their conservation?

Many thanks to everyone who discussed this issue with me and used their own expertise to bring this curious phenomenon to attention, in particular Brīiī Bēlūkhā, Markus Bühler, Brian Engh, Mike Keesey, David Kirshner, Ethan Kocak, C. M. Kosemen, Richard Nicklin, Mark O'Shea, Kevin Schreck, and Karl Shuker. Geckos and monitor lizards have both been covered on Tet Zoo before. See…

Add Comment

There have been several attempts to trick people into believing in super-sized Tokays, often using forced perspective (as here). Image (c) Arbin.

1. 1. 11155896 3:24 pm 04/16/2015

WTF came up with this idea?!

2. 2. ekocak 4:36 pm 04/16/2015

I'm betting that the gecko with the leash and collar has the collar specifically to hide the edges of the fake head.

3. 3. Felix2 4:55 pm 04/16/2015

My thoughts exactly, ekocak.

4. 4. Halbred 5:03 pm 04/16/2015

This is one of those times I have no respect or patience for cultural idioms informing bad decisions, like this one. Or like Chinese folks thinking that ground-up rhino horn is the homeopathic answer to Viagra (or whatever). I don't care what your rationale is–you're torturing these poor lizards for no good reason. WTF is wrong with you?

5. 5. DavidMarjanovic 5:52 pm 04/16/2015

I'm totally stealing "pseudo-turnip-shaped".

6. 6. kuartus 7:24 pm 04/16/2015

Off topic, but I have a question

@naishd, is it true you are working on a book cataloging every single fossil tetrapod species known to science?

7. 7. naishd 7:30 pm 04/16/2015

kuartus (comment # 6): I'm working on a book that covers every single group of vertebrates present in the fossil record. There's no way I can mention – let alone discuss – every single species, but it's still a gargantuan task… especially because of the fish. More information here.

8. 8. gmarmot 12:36 am 04/17/2015

My wife is Thai, and I've spent about 4 years living and traveling in southeast

Asia. The sale of Tokays for food has really reduced the number seen and heard in some places. As is the case in many areas, when people can make a profit from animals, they will hunt them rapaciously. Hunters will pay poor folks a small amount of money to take Tokays on their land. I enjoy hearing the Tokays call at night, but they seem non existent where hunted.

9. 9. Heteromeles 1:48 am 04/17/2015

   Yuck. Just, yuck.

10. 10. naishd 6:20 am 04/17/2015

    This just in… people in India are modifying sand boas to make them heavier, and thus more appealing to potential buyers. See Exhausting the double engine.

11. 11. TheLaramidian 9:13 am 04/17/2015

    That sand boa article reminded me of the foie gras debate, behavior like this isn't limited only to Asia but are there any other cases in Asia where a species' cultural significance has been successfully redirected from animal cruelty to promoting conservation? Could a similar approach be used to protect monitors and boas? tigers? rhinos?

12. 12. Gigantala 11:54 am 04/17/2015

    I hope awareness of this spreads. If a species is culturally worth more alive, crap like this is easy to redirect.

13. 13. U15233929 12:51 pm 04/17/2015

    I believe if this makes up his living then theres nothing wrong about.

    experiments may be done using this giant lizard. im behind you man.

14. 14. naishd 1:13 pm 04/17/2015

    Dude (comment # 13), there's this thing called "ethics".

15. 15. Yodelling Cyclist 1:34 pm 04/17/2015

    Going back to discussing the big book: how is Darren defining group, for these purposes?

16. 16. Gigantala 1:50 pm 04/17/2015

    I don't think commenter #13 even read this post. Pray tell, what kind of "experiments" can be done on a normal animal in a suit? May I suggest you do that to puppies on clothes, you ignorant little #u*&?

[edited by Darren]

17. 17. Varanussalvator 2:31 pm 04/17/2015

    It's worth noting that in the video titled "Giant Tokai Gecko, Higanteng Tuko, Real or Fake?", the piece of paper lists the location as Manila. And in the other version of the "47 inch Tuko" video that David Kirshner shared in the Facebook thread (the one titled "TUKO.mp4), the video description (ITO PATUNAY NA LUMALAKI TUKO SA PILIPINAS) is in Tagalog, and translates to "PROOF THAT THIS GREAT TUKO IN PHILIPPINES".

    So it's possible that this bizarre (and awful) behaviour is also present in the Philippines.

18. 18. ekocak 4:58 pm 04/17/2015

    An aside: I've always found it interesting that the variations in common names for Gekko gecko are down to interpretations of the calls they make. Tokay, tuko and even the word "gecko" itself are onomatopoeias.

19. 19. Jerzy v. 3.0. 9:25 pm 04/17/2015

    I'm not sure if the lizard in concern suffers more than any of the dogs with sunglasses etc. in the West.

    Coming to think about it, what about dressing a dachshund, or a man in a gecko costume and make a really incredibly big symbol of luck?

20. 20. Jerzy v. 3.0. 9:30 pm 04/17/2015

    Wow – somebody did it already.

21. 21. Jerzy v. 3.0. 9:31 pm 04/17/2015

    Or a phelsuma.

22. 22. naishd 4:34 am 04/18/2015

    If the person in the lizard suit, or the dog with sunglasses on, was glued into the suit, with its head fully covered and its body modified such that it might never be able to return to normal life, then, yes, perhaps those things would be comparable, Jerzy. But they're very obviously not.

23. 23. Felix2 8:54 am 04/18/2015

    @13: and also "morals," although if you really don't see anything wrong with forcing a living, feeling creature to go through pain and likely death for personal profit, perhaps those don't apply.*

*Note: ethics still do.

May I just note, while we're on the subject of geckos, that the leopard gecko own is one of the most graceful, intelligent creatures I know. Lizards are awesome, general public! and they are NOT slimy!

24. 24. Jerzy v. 3.0. 8:46 pm 04/18/2015

Don't panic. It is tasteless, but we don't know whether the lizard was strongly glued to the suit and how long it lasted. Varanids are pretty expensive pets, so the person might not be willing to kill its pet for a funny video. Besides, lizards moult,and the cloth of this suit would not last long to biting and tearing of the lizard.

I just remembered a Komodo dragon dressed as a dinosaur in one of older Hollywood movies (anybody remembers the name?) Anybody knows what komodo dragon it was, and how long it lived afterwards?

25. 25. Heteromeles 9:24 pm 04/18/2015

I'm just waiting to see what 20 years of CRISPR development might bring. Some clown might order up a batch of oversized Tokays someday. What fun.

26. 26. Dartian 2:18 am 04/19/2015

Jerzy:
"*I just remembered a Komodo dragon dressed as a dinosaur in one of older Hollywood movies (anybody remembers the name?)*"

You might be thinking of *The Lost World*, the 1960 version. Here is an article about he use of real lizards and crocodylians as dinosaur substitutes in that and in other old Hollywood movies.

27. 27. Jerzy v. 3.0. 5:59 am 04/19/2015

Thanks Dartian! I was thinking about the one with ceratopsian-like frill, going towards the camera sticking its forked tongue. it is in the middle of the linked article.

Faked animals from Asia can be really confusing. Many birdwatchers were perplexed by seeing painted cage birds. In India common estrildid Red Avadavats (Amandava amandava) are sometimes painted to resemble rarer and more valuable Green Avadavat (Amandava formosa) – and some escape to the wild in places where Green Avadavat is long extinct. Pet macaques in China are sometimes dyed blond to pass as golden monkeys.

BTW, the planet Dagobah in the original version of The Empire Strikes Back has (non dressed) water monitors and boa constrictors.

28. 28. Varanussalvator 8:46 am 04/19/2015

In many parts of Southeast Asia, juvenile monitor lizards of several species (typically *salvator* and other closely related species) are still relatively common in and around towns, villages, and farmland, and easily caught, so to people wanting to make a quick buck out of dressing one up as a giant gecko, they certainly aren't seen as expensive pets.

With regards to dyeing of birds, this link points to a sighting in Java of a Scaly-breasted Munia being dyed pink, possibly in an attempt to pass it off as Red Avadavat. (Here's another sighting of a pink Scaly-breasted Munia, as well as a strangely yellow Daurian Starling)

This publication also discusses fraud in India's live bird trade – including dyeing to pass common species off as rarer, more exotic species, and even attaching fake "ears" to owls to pass them off as owl species that possess ears, which are apparently in greater demand.

29. 29. Christopher Taylor 9:11 pm 04/19/2015

A couple of years ago, Christopher asked me what the bright pink pigeons were that he had seen while driving along the highway near us in Perth, Australia. At first he had me confused; I thought he might mean the laughing doves or turtle doves, which are kind of pinkish, but not by any means 'bright' pink. Eventually, I saw them myself: a flock of white doves flying about, some of which had been artificially dyed bright coral pink. I also saw at least one baby blue one. Presumably someone was hiring them out for release at weddings.

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People in Japan are growing concerned that another major earthquake might hit soon

- 17 hours ago

ScreenHunter_114 Apr. 13 15.59

We don't think we have to tell you that when some lunatic wearing a sandwich board starts telling you that the earth will open up and swallow humanity whole if you don't do seven Hail Marys, constantly chant "Yahweh," and transfer a small donation exceeding 10 dollars to his PayPal account **right now**, you can probably take that prediction with a grain of salt.

But, when it comes to earthquakes, there are actually some pretty solid, **observable predictors** that one may be coming soon. And, holy crap you guys, **there are a bunch of those happening right now in Japan** and I for one am starting to get worried.

First up, we had the well-documented mass beaching of a bunch of melon-headed whales (which we are told are actually a type of dolphin and not tiny whales) that happened a few days ago in Ibaraki Prefecture, with around half of the 150 beached dolphins reported to have died. And while some of you may shrug and write this off as a sad accident of some sort, the rest of us are freaking the $'&# out, because just before the last time Japan experienced a major earthquake (you know the one), **there was a similar mass beaching of around 50 of the same type of dolphin**, and dolphins running themselves aground before major earthquakes has been documented in other parts of the world too.

Now, animals acting weird right before earthquakes is a well-documented thing. Just take a look at this otherwise normal-looking dog that sniffs the ground for a second and then bolts off like there's someone having a Beggin' Strips party in the other room **just seconds before a 6.5 earthquake strikes the area.**

Now, the official US government explanation behind this phenomenon is that many animals, including domesticated ones, are more sensitive to the more difficult-to-detect "P wave" tremors that directly precede an earthquake, which would explain why dogs, cats and the like don't start acting like they huffed all your Elmer's glue until mere seconds before a quake hits. Nevertheless, there's tons of anecdotal evidence and speculation that some animals with keen senses can detect minute changes in their environment days in advance of a major

disaster or weather event.

And, there's more…

Late Saturday night, April 11, Twitter suddenly lit up with countless Tweets coming out of Mie Prefecture of people claiming they felt tremors and even **heard the earth itself briefly rumbling,** which to those who experienced the last catastrophic earthquake probably seems like the geological equivalent of a guy cracking his knuckles just before delivering a major ass-kicking.

Still not enough to induce pants-wetting terror for you? On Sunday, April 12, many in Japan reported seeing a so-called "earthquake cloud" looming in the sky.

While this is probably the most tenuous evidence for an impending earthquake, such clouds have been reported prior to major earthquake events since antiquity and, while, largely, not endorsed by the scientific community, earthquake clouds definitely get a lot of traction with the sandwich board crowd.

Is it entirely possible that Japan residents are a little oversensitive to this circumstantial evidence in light of the last disastrous earthquake to strike but a few short years ago? Absolutely. Is it worrying enough to make us consider packing a change of underwear? Yes; in fact, we just went ahead and switched to diapers until this whole thing (hopefully) blows over.

Also, joking aside: If you or a loved one currently lives in, or is visiting, Japan, make sure you brush up on your emergency drills, ensure your earthquake pack is properly stocked, and decide on a foolproof way to get in touch with family just in case. Stay safe, people!

Feature Photo: Twitter

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Petition currently online seeking to rename Lake Michigan

wwmt.com

Updated: Friday, April 10, 2015

(NEWSCHANNEL 3) - Some Great Lakes admirers who live to our west have started a petition to rename one of the Great Lakes.

They are calling for Lake Michigan to be renamed Lake Wisconsin.

The petition reads in part, "to our west, we have the Land of 10,000 Lakes; to our east, the so-called Great Lakes State; and here we are, left in the middle with nothing but a bunch of farmland, cows, and cheeseheads. It's time to make a change. This is Lake Wisconsin."

Right now, the petition has just under 500 supporters.

People from both Wisconsin and Michigan have taken to Twitter with their feelings on the matter.

Some say it's a great idea, while others say there should be a separate petition to rename Wisconsin West Michigan.

The petition site appears to be tongue-in-cheek, and was launched on April 1.

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"It's standing in a lift shaft. It's really creepy to think my friend was just heading towards the area where the ghost was.

The hospital closed more than ten years ago. Before this it was a psychiatric hospital and before that a Victorian workhouse known as The Grubber.

11 Comments
jakmanNEW9 hours ago
As allah divines the price of oil.... so, he will protect you. Have faith!
caveat depascorNEW10 hours ago
It's probably a relative in a burka...
MagnacartaNEW11 hours ago
Even our ghosts have had enough of them.
Mr.MonoxideNEW11 hours ago
The Islams?
LOL
jakmanNEW7 hours ago
Now, STOP IT, Mr.M. lol
daviscNEW11 hours ago
Looks like the mothers image blurred in the background.
Johny EnglanderNEW11 hours ago
Yes, very very creepy and scary indeed, but don't worry folks, I have just voted for an Exorcism
johncNEW12 hours ago
Ugly Bs !
Comfortably NumbNEW13 hours ago
I see what you mean...all four of them shouldn't really be there!....spooky
caveat depascorNEW10 hours ago
Four? We should be so lucky - look again my friend there's 5 (one being carried by the father)
Comfortably NumbNEW8 hours ago
Ha ha..I think we are both wrong friend, there are 6 of them...thats nan in the picture...obviously lost, can't see out that bloody burka. And they think its a ghost?

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The folly was built in 1812 by George Nettleton for the Nicholson family, who bought the Roundhay Park Estate in 1803 and built The Mansion and landscaped the grounds, creating the lakes.

Dr Kevin Grady, director of Leeds Civic Trust, said it was the first time paranormal activity had been recorded there.

MERCURYPRESSANDMEDIALTD

MERCURYPRESSANDMEDIALTD

I don't even like watching scary films and I don't like looking at this photo, it's spooky, there was no one there.

Post office worker Nurul Islam who snapped ghost pic

He said: "Originally there was a wooden roof on top so there was an upper room which the Nicholson family would use. The folly was used as a family house, a sewing room by the girls and they had social functions there."

News of the image comes just days after amateur ghost sleuth Jamie-Leigh Brown, 21, recorded video of what he believes could be a spectral doctor.

She was exploring the derelict empty St Thomas's Hospital, a former Victorian workhouse, in Stockport, which is reportedly haunted.

JAMIE-LEIGHBROWN

JAMIE-LEIGHBROWN

A friend filming in a dark corridor, while she photographed him, when they heard footsteps above before running out.

When the footage and images were reviewed the ghostly doctor, who may even be wearing surgical mask, appeared to be facing towards her at the end of the corridor.

She told The Sun: "It freaked me out.

PICTURED: Moment 'creepy ghost' photo-bombs family's next holiday snap of their children

express.co.uk

A CHILL ran down the collective spine of this family after they checked out holiday snaps from an Easter break.

By Jon Austin
PUBLISHED: 13:33, Thu, May 7, 2015 | UPDATED: 15:21, Thu, May 7, 2015

MERCURYPRESSANDMEDIALTD

The Islams got a severe case of the creeps after seeing a 'spectral figure' in the background photo bombing this shot of two children in front of an 1812 building.

The spooky picture of Mayrian Islam, 11, and nine-year-old Ryhan Kaliqwas was taken in Roundhay Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire, next to the Victorian folly.

On closer inspection a strange cloaked figure is standing on steps in the background, but the family insist no one else was there at the time.

Post office worker Nurul Islam, 37, who went to the park with his sister and her two children, said they were all shocked when they saw the image which looks like it shows an adult walking up the steps with arms outstretched.

He said: "I don't even like watching scary films and I don't like looking at this photo, it's spooky, there was no one there.

"My sister took the photograph and she saw it first, the castle isn't too old but who knows who lived there before.

"We were taking lots of pictures. Because people were standing on the steps and walking about, we waited for them to move on before we took a picture.

"We waited and waited for a clear point when no-one was there as they wanted to hold their hands together. That's why we're sure there was no-one there.

"I didn't think anything of it and took a few more. Then we got home and looked at the photos and saw this thing at the back of it that wasn't there before.

"My sister said 'Oh my God it's a ghost'. I've started to think it might be. There was definitely no-one there when I took the picture."

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Struggles With Suicides Among Its Young

nytimes.com

A portrait of Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, in the home of her grandfather Keith Janis, foreground, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Nine people ages 12 to 24 have committed suicide there since December. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times

PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. — A few days before Christmas, Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, decided that she did not want to live anymore.

A bright, outgoing girl with a shy smile and a passion for horseback riding, Santana had become afflicted by dark moods. She lived in a derelict two-bedroom trailer with a grandfather, Earl Tall, and as many as a dozen siblings and cousins.

Her mother, an alcoholic, was an intermittent presence in her life. Their town, Manderson, was torn by drinking, fighting and violence.

Mr. Tall overheard his granddaughter's talk of suicide and called her other grandfather, Keith Janis, who immediately drove 40 miles to see her. "I sat down with her and said, 'Please, promise Grandpa you'll never do that,' " Mr. Janis recalled last week. "She gave me that big, beautiful smile of hers and said, 'O.K., Grandpa, O.K.' "

Six weeks later, Santana hanged herself in a small unheated building next to the trailer.

Since December, the Pine Ridge Reservation, a vast, windswept land of stunning grasslands and dusty plateaus, has been the scene of an unfolding crisis: Nine people between the ages of 12 and 24 have committed suicide here.

A portrait of Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, in the home of her grandfather Keith Janis, foreground, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Nine people

Two teenagers hanged themselves in December. In the next three months, seven more young people were found dead, including Alanie Martin, 14, who was known for her love of basketball, cheerleading and traditional Indian hand games. When Santana killed herself in February, she followed the recent suicide of a boy who attended her school, Wounded Knee, named for the 1890 massacre that occurred where the reservation stands today.

Many more youths on the reservation have

ages 12 to 24 have committed suicide there since December. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times John Yellow Bird Steele, the Oglala Sioux tribe president, last week. He declared an emergency on the reservation in February. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times The Badlands, viewed from the Pine Ridge reservation. More than 100 young people on the reservation attempted suicide in four months. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times MAY 3, 2015 By The New York Times "It's just a common thing," said Myra Slow Bear, 15, of suicide attempts on the reservation. Her friend Alanie Martin, 14, committed suicide this year. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times Boys playing basketball on the reservation last week. Children on reservations face a variety of challenges including a legacy of oppression and forced removals and the lack of jobs and economic opportunity. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times

tried, but failed, to kill themselves in the past several months: At least 103 attempts by people ages 12 to 24 occurred from December to March, according to the federal Indian Health Service. Grim-faced emergency medical workers on the reservation, which is the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, say they have been called to the scenes of suicide attempts, sometimes several times a day.

Tribe officials, clergy members and social workers say they cannot remember such a high rate of suicides and attempts in such a short period on the reservation, which is already overwhelmed with high rates of unemployment, poverty, domestic abuse and alcohol addiction.

In 2013, five people, adults and children, killed themselves, according to the Oglala Sioux tribe. Officials at Pine Ridge said they were mystified by the far more pronounced increase in the past several months and had searched, unsuccessfully, for answers.

As the suicides began to mount in February, the Oglala Sioux tribe president, John Yellow Bird Steele, declared an emergency on the reservation. In response, the Indian Health Service deployed additional counselors, but many people here say it is not nearly enough: There are only six mental health professionals on the entire reservation, which has a population of 16,000 to 40,000 tribal members based on varying government and tribal estimates.

A portrait of Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, in the home of her grandfather Keith Janis, foreground, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Nine people ages 12 to 24 have committed suicide there since December. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times John Yellow Bird Steele, the Oglala Sioux tribe president, last week. He declared an emergency on the reservation in February. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times The Badlands, viewed from the Pine Ridge reservation. More than 100 young people on the

"It is devastating," Mr. Steele said. "I don't know if they were cyberbullied, or if they had living conditions they didn't want to put up with, or they were sexually abused. Were they hungry? I don't know."

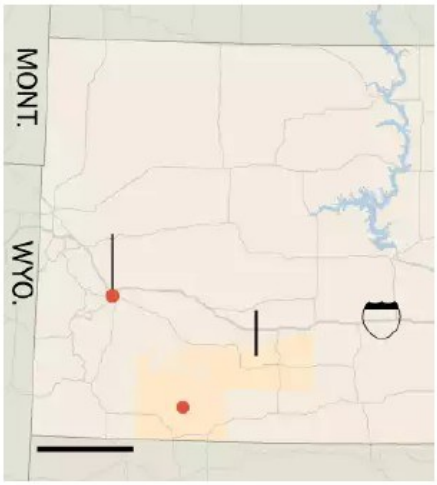
"When you have a good understanding of what's happening," he said, "come back and tell me."

But family members and tribe officials said they had seen disturbing clues.

Outside the Pine Ridge School, where four of the 800 students have committed suicide in recent months, Myra Slow Bear, 15, a friend of Alanie's, said other students had been bullying Alanie.

reservation attempted suicide in four months. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times MAY 3, 2015 By The New York Times "It's just a common thing," said Myra Slow Bear, 15, of suicide attempts on the reservation. Her friend Alanie Martin, 14, committed suicide this year. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times Boys playing basketball on the reservation last week. Children on reservations face a variety of challenges including a legacy of oppression and forced removals and the lack of jobs and economic opportunity. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times

"I knew she was depressed," she said. Among teenagers at the school, she said, attempting suicide is not unusual.



"It's just a common thing," she said.

Mr. Tall, Santana's grandfather, said that she, too, had conflicts with other students at school. An official with knowledge of the case said that shortly before Santana committed suicide, another girl at school had written to her on Facebook, urging her to kill herself.

Several officials with knowledge of the cases said that at least one of the youths who committed suicide was influenced by Slender Man, a tall, faceless creature who appears in storytelling websites, often as a figure who stalks and kills victims. Two girls in a Milwaukee suburb last summer said the character had inspired them in the attempted murder of a classmate.

"They call him the Tall Man spirit," said Chris Carey, a minister who works with youths, some of them suicidal, on the reservation. "He's appearing to these kids and telling them to kill themselves."

Mr. Steele, who said many Native Americans traditionally believe in a "suicide spirit" similar to Slender Man, said young people had been sharing disturbing videos on Facebook that encourage suicide. One video, he said, gave instructions on tying a hangman's noose. Another directed children to go to a specific place outside the village, saying there were ropes there. "Go use them," the video instructed.

John Two Bulls, a pastor who works with youths on the reservation, said that two months ago, he was tipped off to a group suicide planned in a wooded area outside the town of Pine Ridge. Frantic, he drove to the spot.

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"It was cold, it was dark, and there was a row of trees with ropes hanging off the branches," he said. "I was thankful that we were able to get there without finding anybody hanging from those ropes."

Some teenagers had already congregated there, he said, and he urged them to gather around. "I counseled them, prayed with them, talked with them," he said. They told him that "they were tired of the lives they had at home, no food, with parents all intoxicated, and some were being abused, mentally or sexually."

Mental health professionals said they suspected that in some cases, young people might have been influenced by previous suicides. Feeling neglected, they can be attracted to the public displays of mourning that follow a death; and once they hear about the method of suicide, they imitate it.

"Contagion does occur with teenagers," said Stephanie Schweitzer Dixon, the executive director of the Front Porch Coalition, a suicide prevention group in Rapid City, S.D. "Kids are young, they don't think clearly, their brains aren't fully developed. I know that things seem to be getting worse for kids. Things seem to be getting more dire."

A portrait of Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, in the home of her grandfather Keith Janis, foreground, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Nine people ages 12 to 24 have committed suicide there since December. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times John Yellow Bird Steele, the Oglala Sioux tribe president, last week. He declared an emergency on the reservation in February. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York

Ted Hamilton, the superintendent of the Red Cloud Indian School, a Jesuit school on the reservation, says suicide is an issue that schools grapple with constantly.

"To be Lakota in this world is a challenge because they want to maintain their own culture, but they're being told their culture is not successful," Mr. Hamilton said. Children on Indian reservations, he added, have extraordinary challenges: the legacy of oppression and forced removals, the lack of jobs and economic opportunity, and the high levels of drug and alcohol use around them.

"The federal government dropped the ball in terms of mental health resources," Mr. Hamilton

Times The Badlands, viewed from the Pine Ridge reservation. More than 100 young people on the reservation attempted suicide in four months. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times MAY 3, 2015 By The New York Times "It's just a common thing," said Myra Slow Bear, 15, of suicide attempts on the reservation. Her friend Alanie Martin, 14, committed suicide this year. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times Boys playing basketball on the reservation last week. Children on reservations face a variety of challenges including a legacy of oppression and forced removals and the lack of jobs and economic opportunity. Credit Kristina Barker for The New York Times

said. "The system is overwhelmed. No matter which reservation you go to, that's what you'll find."

Ron Cornelius, the Great Plains director of the Indian Health Service, said in a statement that the recent suicides were "an incredibly sad situation" that the agency was determined to address. "I.H.S. is committed to working with the tribe to address this heartbreaking problem," he said.

When Mr. Janis, a longtime activist, talks about Santana's death, he points to the "multigenerational trauma" inflicted on Native Americans by whites and the tensions that still exist between the groups. On an overnight trip to Rapid City over the New Year, a group of girls including Santana overheard a white woman call them "filthy Indians" as they passed through a hotel lobby, he said.

"My beautiful Lakota granddaughter," he said. "She had to hear that. Our kids today just want to die because they're sick of all this oppression."

Last week, at the Pine Ridge Gospel Fellowship, a small, white clapboard church in the heart of the reservation, a group of clergy members, social workers and tribal elders met for an informal prayer session.

As one pastor played hymns on an acoustic guitar, Norma Blacksmith, who lost a grandson to suicide several years ago, bowed her head and closed her eyes.

"In our culture, Lord, the children are sacred," she said. "We thank you that there have been no suicides in this last week. You answered our prayer."

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The bar is said to be from the wreckage of Capt Kidd's ship, the Adventure Galley

Underwater explorers in Madagascar say they have discovered treasure belonging to the notorious 17th-Century Scottish pirate William Kidd.

A 50kg (7st 9lb) silver bar was brought to shore on Thursday on the island of Sainte Marie, from what is thought to be the wreck of the Adventure Galley.

The bar was presented to Madagascar's president at a special ceremony.

US explorer Barry Clifford says he believes there are many more such bars still in the wreck.

Capt Kidd was first appointed by the British authorities to tackle piracy but later became a ruthless criminal and was executed in 1701.

'Scepticism'

"Captain's Kidd's treasure is the stuff of legends. People have been looking for it for 300 years. To literally have it hit me on the head - I thought what the heck just happened to me. I really didn't expect this," Mr Clifford said.

"There's more down there. I know the whole bottom of the cavity where I found the silver bar is filled with metal. It's too murky down there to see what metal, but my metal detector tells me there is metal on all sides."

The BBC's Martin Vogl tweets that there is much excitement in Madagascar about the discovery and Mr Clifford's team has no doubt that the discovery is genuine.

The team believes the bar, marked with what appears to be a letter S and a letter T, has its origins in 17th-Century Bolivia.

It believes the ship it has found was built in England, however there is bound to be scepticism and calls for more proof that the bar was linked to Capt Kidd, our reporter says.

One option would be to take samples of wood from the ship to analyse, he says.

The location of the ship, thought to have sunk in 1698, has been known about for many years but the silver bar was only discovered earlier this week.

Barry Clifford led a team which discovered the suspected treasure

Soldiers watched over the silver at a ceremony attended by the president and diplomats

The bar is said to be from the wreckage of Capt Kidd's ship, the Adventure Galley Barry Clifford led a team which discovered the suspected treasure Soldiers watched over the silver at a ceremony attended by the president and diplomats There have been numerous searches for William Kidd's loot He appeared before the bar of the House of Commons before his execution

Mr Clifford said that while diving in the wreck, his metal detector picked up signals but it was too muddy for him to see anything.

UK ambassador to Madagascar Timothy Smart, who attended the ceremony, said he hoped that Mr Clifford's latest discovery would raise Madagascar's profile as a tourist destination.

The plan is to exhibit the bars in a museum.

Who was Captain Kidd?

He is thought to have been born in Scotland's Greenock or the Dundee area in about 1645.

He was appointed by the Crown to tackle piracy and capture enemy French ships, but turned to piracy himself.

In 1698, he looted the Armenian ship the Quedagh Merchant, which was apparently sailing under a French pass.

The Quedagh Merchant had been carrying satins, muslins, gold and silver.

Unfortunately for Kidd, the captain of the ship was an Englishman, and it is thought that a large amount of the cargo belonged to the British East India Company.

Capt Kidd was captured and brought back to London. He was found guilt of piracy and the murder of one of his crewmen during a row in 1697, and sentenced to death.

During his execution in Wapping in 1701, the

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There have been numerous searches for William Kidd's loot

He appeared before the bar of the House of Commons before his execution

first rope put around his neck broke, so he was strung up a second time. That rope also snapped, but the third one held.

Afterwards, his body was dipped in tar and hung by chains along the River Thames to serve as a warning to would-be pirates.

Legend had it that Capt Kidd hid much of his loot, which has prompted numerous treasure hunts around the world and inspired author Robert Louis Stevenson when writing Treasure Island.

The bar is said to be from the wreckage of Capt Kidd's ship, the Adventure Galley Barry Clifford led a team which discovered the suspected treasure Soldiers watched over the silver at a ceremony attended by the president and diplomats There have been numerous searches for William Kidd's loot He appeared before the bar of the House of Commons before his execution

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PUNA AND THE DRAGON

TWO images of goddesses were clothed in yellow kapa cloth and worshipped in the temples. One was Kiha-wahine, a noted dragon-goddess, and the other was Haumea, who was also known as Papa, the wife of Wakea, a great ancestor-god among the Polynesians.

Haumea is said to have taken as her husband, Puna, a chief of Oahu. He and his people were going around the island. The surf was not very good, and they wanted to find a better place. At last they found a fine surf-place where a beautiful woman was floating on the sea.

She called to Puna, "This is not a good place for surf." He asked, "Where is there a place?", She answered, "I know where there is one, far outside." She desired to get Puna. So they swam way out in the sea until they were out of sight nor could they see the sharp peaks of the mountains. They forgot everything else but each other. This woman was Kiha-wahine.

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The people on the beach wailed, but did not take canoes to help them. They swam over to Molokai. Here they left their surf-boards on the beach and went inland. They came to the cave house of the woman. He saw no man inside nor did he hear any voice, all was quiet.

Puna stayed there as a kind of prisoner and obeyed the commands of the woman. She took care of him and prepared his food. They lived as husband and wife for a long time, and at last his real body began to change.

Once he went out of the cave. While standing there he heard voices, loud and confused. He wanted to see what was going on, but he could not go, because the woman had laid her law on him, that if he went away he would be killed.

He returned to the cave and asked the woman, "What is that noise I heard from the sea?" She said: "Surf-riding, perhaps, or rolling the maika stone. Some one is winning and you heard the shouts." He said, "It would be fine for me to see the things you have mentioned." She said, "To-morrow will be a good time for you to go and see."

In the morning he went down to the sea. to the place where the people were gathered together and saw many sports.

While he was watching, one of the men, Hinole, the brother of his wife, saw him and was pleased.

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When the sports were through he invited Puna to go to their house and eat and talk.

Hinole asked him, "Whence do you come, and what house do you live in?" He said, "I am

from the mountains, and my house is a cave." Hinole meditated, for he had heard of the loss of Puna at Oahu. He loved his brother-in-law, and asked, "How did you come to this place?" Puna told him all the story. Then Hinole told him his wife was a goddess. "When you return and come near to the place, go very easily and softly, and you will see her in her real nature, as a mo-o, or dragon; but she knows all that you are doing and what we are saying. Now listen to a parable. Your first wife, Haumea, is the first born of all the other women. Think of the time when she was angry with you. She had been sporting with you and then she said in a tired way, 'I want the water.' You asked, 'What water do you want?' She said, 'The water from Poliahu of Mauna Kea.' You took a water-jar and made a hole so that the water always leaked out, and then you went to the pit of Pele. That woman Pele was very old and blear-eyed, so that she could not see you well, and you returned to Haumea. She was that wife of yours. If you escape this mo-o wife she will seek my life. It is my thought to save your life, so that you can look into the eyes of your first wife."

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The beautiful dragon-woman had told him to cry with a loud voice when he went back to the cave. But when Puna was going back he went slowly and softly, and saw his wife as a dragon, and understood the words of Hinole. He tried to hide, but was trembling and breathing hard.

His wife heard and quickly changed to a human body, and cursed him, saying: "You are an evil man coming quietly and hiding, but I heard your breath when you thought I would not know you. Perhaps I will eat your eyes. When you were talking with Hinole you learned how to come and see me."

The dragon-goddess was very angry, but Puna did not say anything. She was so angry that the hair on her neck rose up, but it was like a whirlwind, soon quiet and the anger over. They dwelt together, and the woman trusted Puna, and they had peace.

One day Puna was breathing hard, for he was thirsty and wanted the water of the gods.

The woman heard his breathing, and asked, "Why do you breathe like this?" He said: "I want water. We have dwelt together a long time and now I need the water." "What water is this you want?" He said, "I must have the water of Poliahu of Mauna Kea, the snow-covered mountain of Hawaii."

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She said, "Why do you want that water?" He said: "The water of that place is cold and heavy with ice. In my youth my good grandparents always brought water from that place for me. Wherever I went I carried that water with me, and when it was gone more would be brought to me, and so it has been up to the time that I came to dwell with you. You have water and I have been drinking it, but it is not the same as the water mixed with ice, and heavy. But I would not send you after it, because I know it is far away and attended with toil unfit for you, a woman."

The woman bent her head down, then lifted her eyes, and said: "Your desire for water is not a hard thing to satisfy. I will go and get the water."

Before he had spoken of his desire he had made a little hole in the water-jar, as Hinole had told him, that the woman might spend a long time and let him escape.

She arose and went away. He also arose and followed. He found a canoe and crossed to Maui. Then he found another boat going to Hawaii and at last landed at Kau.

He went up and stood on the edge of the pit of Pele. Those who were living in the crater saw him, and cried out, "Here is a man, a husband for our sister." He quickly went down

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into the crater and dwelt with them. He told all about his journey. Pele heard these words, and said: "Not very long and your wife will be here coming after you, and there will be a great battle, but we will not let you go or you will be killed, because she is very angry against you. She has held you, the husband of our sister Haumea. She should find her own husband and not take what belongs to another. You stay with us and at the right time you can go back to your wife."

Kiha-wahine went to Poliahu, but could not fill the water-jar. She poured the water in and filled the jar, but when the jar was lifted it became light. She looked back and saw the water lying on the ground, and her husband far beyond at the pit of Pele. Then she became angry and called all the dragons of Molokai, Lanai, Maui, Kahoolawe, and Hawaii.

When she had gathered all the dragons she went up to Kilauea and stood on the edge of the crater and called all the people below, telling them to give her the husband. They refused to give Puna up, crying out: "Where is your husband? This is the husband of our sister; he does not belong to you, O mischief-maker."

Then the dragon-goddess said, "If you do not give up this man, of a truth I will send quickly all my people and fill up this crater and capture

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all your fires." The dragons threw their drooling saliva in the pit, and almost destroyed the fire of the pit where Pele lived, leaving Ka-moho-alii's place untouched.

Then the fire moved and began to rise with great strength, burning off all the saliva of the dragons. Kiha-wahine and the rest of the dragons could not stand the heat even a little while, for the fire caught them and killed a large part of them in that place. They tried to hide in the clefts of the rocks. The earthquakes opened the rocks and some of the dragons hid, but fire followed the earthquakes and the fleeing dragons. Kiha-wahine ran and leaped down the precipice into a fish-pond called by the name of the shadow, or aka, of the dragon, Loko-aka (the shadow lake).

So she was imprisoned in the pond, husbandless, scarcely escaping with her life. When she

went back to Molokai she meant to kill Hinole, because she was very angry for his act in aiding Puna to escape. She wanted to punish him, but Hinole saw the trouble coming from his sister, so arose and leaped into the sea, becoming a fish in the ocean.

When he dove into the sea Kiha-wahine went down after him and tried to find him in the small and large coral caves, but could not catch him. He became the Hinalea, a fish dearly loved by

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the fishermen of the islands. The dragon-goddess continued seeking, swimming swiftly from place to place.

Ounauna saw her passing back and forth, and said, "What are you seeking, O Kiha-wahine?" She said, "I want Hinole." Ounauna said: "Unless you listen to me you cannot get him, just as when you went to Hawaii you could not get your husband from Pele. You go and get the vine inalua and come back and make a basket and put it down in the sea. After a while dive down and you will find that man has come inside. Then catch him."

The woman took the vine, made the basket, came down and put it in the sea. She left it there a little while, then dove down. There was no Hinole in the basket, but she saw him swimming along outside of the basket. She went up, waited awhile, came down again and saw him still swimming outside. This she did again and again, until her eyes were red because she could not catch him. Then she was angry, and went to Ounauna and said: "O slave, I will kill you to-day. Perhaps you told the truth, but I have been deceived, and will chase you until you die."

Ounauna said: "Perhaps we should talk before I die. I want you to tell me just what you have done, then I will know whether you followed

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directions. Tell me in a few words. Perhaps I forgot something."

The dragon said, "I am tired of your words and I will kill you." Then Ounauna said, "Suppose I die, what will you do to correct any mistakes you have made?"

Then she told how she had taken vines and made a basket and used it. Ounauna said: "I forgot to tell you that you must get some sea eggs and crabs, pound and mix them together and put them inside the basket. Put the mouth of the basket down. Leave it for a little while, then dive down and find your brother inside. He will not come out, and you can catch him." This is the way the Hinalea is caught to this day.

After she had caught her brother she took him to the shore to kill him, but he persuaded her to set him free. This she did, compelling him ever after to retain the form of the fish Hinalea.

Kiha-wahine then went to the island Maui and dwelt in a deep pool near the old royal town of Lahaina.

After Pele had her battle with the dragons, and Puna had escaped according to the directions

of Hinole, he returned to Oahu and saw his wife, Haumea, a woman with many names, as if she were the embodiment of many goddesses.

After Puna disappeared, Kou became the new

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chief of Oahu. Puna went to live in the mountains above Kalihi-uka. One day Haumea went out fishing for crabs at Heeia, below the precipice of Koolau, where she was accustomed to go. Puna came to a banana plantation, ate, and lay down to rest. He fell fast asleep and the watchmen of the new chief found him. They took his loin-cloth, and tied his hands behind his back, bringing him thus to Kou, who killed him and hung the body in the branches of a breadfruit-tree. It is said that this was at Wai-kaha-lulu just below the steep diving rocks of the Nuuanu stream.

When Haumea returned from gathering moss and fish to her home in Kalihi-uka, she heard of the death of her husband. She had taken an akala vine, made a pa-u, or skirt, of it, and tied it around her when she went fishing, but she forgot all about it, and as she hurried down to see the body of her husband, all the people turned to look at her, and shouted out, "This is the wife of the dead man."

She found Puna hanging on the branches. Then she made that breadfruit-tree open. Leaving her pa-u on the ground where she stood, she stepped inside the tree and bade it close about her and appear the same as before. The akala, of which the pa-u had been made, lay where it was left, took root and grew into a large vine.

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The fat of the body of Puna fell down through the branches and the dogs ate below the tree. One of these dogs belonged to the chief Kou. It came back to the house, played with the chief, then leaped, caught him by the throat and killed him.

NOTE.--This is the same legend as "The Wonderful Breadfruit Tree" published in the "Legends of Old Honolulu," but the names are changed and the time is altered from the earliest days of Hawaiian lore to the almost historic period of King Kakuhihewa, whose under-chief mentioned in this legend gave the name to Old Honolulu, as for centuries it bore the name "Kou." The legend is new, however, in so far as it gives the account of the infatuation of Puna for Kiha-wahine, the dragon-goddess, and his final escape from her.

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Pyramid On Mars Spotted Via Google — Here's How To Investigate This Anomaly For Yourself

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Odd News Posted: April 12, 2015

A massive pyramid on the surface of Mars was spotted by an online researcher into alien anomalies using a tool available to anyone — Google Earth. That means curious readers do not need to take the researcher's word for it.

This giant pyramid is clearly visible, and you can investigate it for yourself to decide if this is a significant discovery or just another optical illusion similar to the famous "Face on Mars."

The apparent pyramid was located by Marcelo Irazusta, who also found several other odd anomalies using Google Mars, a feature of the Google Earth application. In the above video, compiled by Irazusta and posted by Sandra Elena Andrade on March 25, not only is the pyramid visible, but so is a "city" on Mars and the gigantic numerals "58" seemingly etched into the Martian surface.

The video came to the attention of the man who is more responsible than anyone else for spreading UFO and alien-hunting information on the internet — Scott Waring, editor of *UFO Sightings Daily*.

"This is an interesting find," Waring wrote upon seeing the video. "A pyramid on Mars that is 2.75 km across each side. This

pyramid also has a doorway entrance on one side that is 200×100 meters wide. An extraordinary monument for sure, discovered by Sandra Elena Andrade of Youtube. This person searches Google Mars map for ancient architecture. There is also an assortment of other discoveries that they made in the video below, which you may find fascinating."

The base of the pyramid, according to the Google Earth ruler function, is more than a mile across.

To investigate the pyramid for yourself, download the Google Earth app. Once the application is installed and initialized, select "Mars" from the drop down menu under the "planet" icon in the toolbar.

In the search box, enter the following coordinates: 27.510948 N 117.475122 E. The Google Earth application will take you directly to the strange pyramid.

By zooming in and out, you can decide for yourself whether the structure is really the marvel that it originally appears to be — or something more ordinary.

Locating the original Mars anomaly, the so-called "Face on Mars," is easy. The coordinates are already built into the application. Just type "Face on Mars" into the search box, and the Google software finds the infamous "face" for you.

But prepare to be disappointed. The supposed "face" actually looks like this.

Whether the pyramid on Mars will also turn out to be a disappointment or an incredible discovery is up to individual Google users.

[Image: NASA]

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Friday 10 April 2015

Rare black flamingo spotted in Cyprus

An extremely rare black flamingo has been spotted on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus

Bird enthusiasts and ordinary folks alike have caught a glimpse of a rare treasure on this east Mediterranean island: a black flamingo amid a flock of birds taking a break from their trek back to summer breeding grounds.

The bird stood in sharp contrast among others of its kind in a salt lake near the southern coastal town of Limassol, **Cyprus** on Thursday.

A rare black flamingo is seen in sharp contrast among other flamingos, at a salt lake at the Akrotiri area near costal city of Limassol, Cyprus (AP)

Martin Hellicar, with the conservation group BirdLife Cyprus said that although black flamingos aren't all that unusual around the world, it's the first time that one has been spotted in Cyprus in recent memory.

Hellicar said the bird is most likely migrating to its breeding area in nearby **Turkey** after spending the winter elsewhere and has stopped at the salt lake to feast on brine shrimp.

Flamingos take a break on the east Mediterranean island from their trek back to summer breeding grounds (AP)

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Rare dolphin who turns PINK when it's angry makes waves at aquarium

- 17:29, 16 April 2015
- By Kara O'Neill

The amazing creature is currently residing at an aquarium in Japan where crowds are captivating by its appearance

Rare footage of a pink albino dolphin at a water park in Japan

A rare albino dolphin that can go from white to pink when it is feeling flushed is pulling in the crowds at a water park in Japan.

Although bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops) are usually grey, this extremely rare creature is an albino and has no colouration – apart from a tendency to turn pink when feeling flushed.

Photos show how the animal is normally white, and occasionally pink when swimming along regular coloured grey dolphins.

CEN

Rare: The albino dolphin can turn completely pink when it is feeling flushed

Albino mammals are born without melanin, which gives the colour to both eyes and skin, and albino dolphins are extremely rare.

In fact this specimen is believed to be only the second one ever put on display in an aquarium after it was purchased from fishermen.

And they may well have been doing the animal a favour, as albinos are easy prey out at sea as they lack the colouration to blend in like their grey coloured relatives.

Colourful: The dolphin's bright white skin can make it an easy catch for predators

Experts said that it was remarkable that the animal had actually lived so long before ending

CEN

up at the Taiji Whale Museum, in Higashimuro District, in southern Japan's Wakayama Prefecture.

Controversially, the creature was captured during the annual dolphin hunt in the town of Taiji.

The town and the hunt was made notorious by the 2009 Oscar-winning documentary "The Cove," which shows fishermen herding dolphins into a cove either to be captured for aquariums or killed for meat.

CEN

Controversial: The creature was caught during a dolphin hunt but was later sent to the aquarium

It was reported that 1,218 dolphins and small whales were captured there in 2011, though it did not specify how many of those captured were killed.

But the rare albino was one that did survive.

Since then it has become the subject of a detailed study by the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology and the Institute of Cetacean Research who recently published a paper on the fascinating creature.

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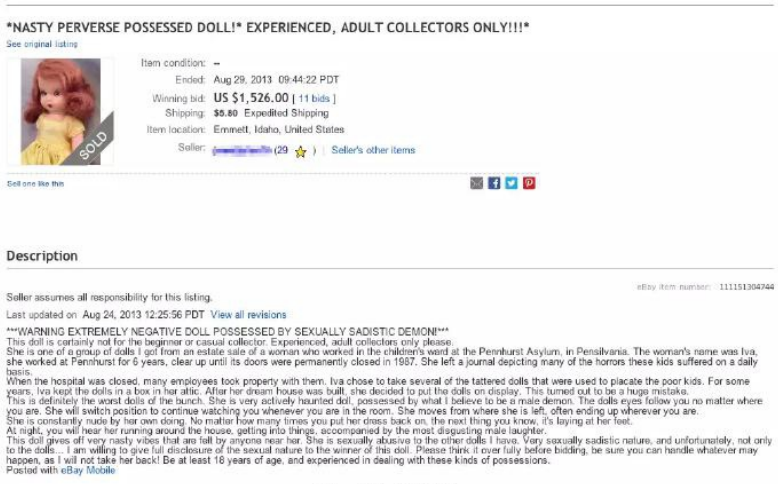
Posted on April 10, 2015by Scott Hallam

Most of us have spent a lifetime trying to steer as far clear of haunted childhood toys as possible. However, we've learned that there is actually a market out there for haunted/possessed dolls. Folks, this is the definition of *asking for it!* Check this out.

A recent article that appeared on **Vice.com** revealed to the unsuspecting public that there is serious business in the collection and trade of dolls thought to be haunted by demonic spirits. What the fuck?! (That's right, we even wrote the whole thing out. This is way too insane for just a blasé WTF!) According to paranormal investigator and haunted doll aficionado Jayne Harris, *"Most of the time, the reason a doll becomes haunted is because of unfinished business. It could also be a fear of passing over, or sometimes there's somebody on the other side that the spirits don't want to reconnect with."* All the more reason to avoid these playthings of the devil!

As you can see by the doll auction listing below, these things can go for some serious coin. How an item description that includes a doll whose eyes follow you wherever you go, will move position to continue watching you, always turns up naked no matter how many times you put her dress back on (Actually, I knew a girl like that in college. Bazinga!), and you can hear running around the house at night getting into things accompanied by 'disgusting' male laughter…are you kidding me?! Not to mention she's sexually abusive to the other dolls… wait, what? How's that even possible? Anyway, at the close of the auction, this doll sold for about $1,500. Wow.

A search of **eBay's listings of recently completed 'possessed doll' auctions** revealed that if you're actually insane enough to get involved in this hobby, you can totally get in for under $100 most of the time. But holy hell, why would you want to?


NASTY PERVERSE POSSESSED DOLL! EXPERIENCED, ADULT COLLECTORS ONLY!!!*

See original listing

SOLD

Item condition: –
Ended: Aug 29, 2013 09:44:22 PDT
Winning bid: US $1,526.00 [11 bids]
Shipping: $5.80 Expedited Shipping
Item location: Emmett, Idaho, United States
Seller: (29) | Seller's other items

Sell one like this

Description

eBay item number: 111151304744

Seller assumes all responsibility for this listing.

Last updated on: Aug 24, 2013 12:25:56 PDT View all revisions

***WARNING EXTREMELY NEGATIVE DOLL POSSESSED BY SEXUALLY SADISTIC DEMON!**
This doll is certainly not for the beginner or casual collector. Experienced, adult collectors only please.
She is one of a group of dolls I got from an estate sale of a woman who worked in the children's ward at the Pennhurst Asylum, in Pensilvania. The woman's name was Iva, she worked at Pennhurst for 6 years, clear up until its doors were permanently closed in 1987. She left a journal depicting many of the horrors these kids suffered on a daily basis.
When the hospital was closed, many employees took property with them. Iva chose to take several of the tattered dolls that were used to placate the poor kids. For some years, Iva kept the dolls in a box in her attic. After her dream house was built, she decided to put the dolls on display. This turned out to be a huge mistake.
This is definitely the worst dolls of the bunch. She is very actively haunted doll, possessed by what I believe to be a male demon. The dolls eyes follow you no matter where you are. She will switch position to continue watching you whenever you are in the room. She moves from where she is left, often ending up wherever you are.
She is constantly nude by her own doing. No matter how many times you put her dress back on, the next thing you know, it's laying at her feet.
At night, you will hear her running around the house, getting into things, accompanied by the most disgusting male laughter.
This doll gives off very nasty vibes that are felt by anyone near her. She is sexually abusive to the other dolls I have. Very sexually sadistic nature, and unfortunately, not only to the dolls… I am willing to give full disclosure of the sexual nature to the winner of this doll. Please think it over fully before bidding, be sure you can handle whatever may happen, as I will not take her back! Be at least 18 years of age, and experienced in dealing with these kinds of possessions.
Posted with eBay Mobile

Haunted Dolls

Nancy Oyola has her own **Etsy page** that's absolutely loaded with these things. She inherited about 300 of the little buggers. The sheer number of items must make the critical thinker say, *"Okay, there's somehow a market for haunted dolls. This person is capitalizing on the hype and selling dolls that maybe aren't quite as haunted as she claims they are."* But they must be! The proof is in the feedback, and Oyola has 266 reviews on her page and holds a 4.5 out of 5 average rating. That's a lot of satisfied customers!

For more on the haunted doll culture, visit **Jayne Harris' wildly popular Haunted Dolls Facebook page** (over 13,000 likes). And by all means, Dreadies, let's go with the ol' *Buyer Beware* slogan here. Maybe more here than anywhere.

Haunted Dolls

Haunted Dolls

Haunted Dolls

Scott Hallam

More Posts Twitter

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Redhaired schoolgirl, 17, banned from lessons because she's TOO ginger

11:16 EST, 15 April 2015 |
11:16 EST, 15 April 2015

dailymail.co.uk

Naturally red-haired schoolgirl, 17, banned from lessons until she tones it down because she's TOO ginger

- **Sixth form student Emily Reay is barred from classes for being too ginger**
- **Her school said colour was inappropriate and asked her to 'tone it down'**
- **But she says her hair has been vibrant shade of red for over three years**
- **Emily is a natural red head but colours her hair so it is even brighter**

By Keiligh Baker for MailOnline

A naturally red-headed sixth form student has been told to tone down her hair colour or she will be barred from classes for being 'too ginger'.

Emily Reay, 17, who has natural auburn hair but colours it so it is brighter, is a pupil at Trinity School in Carlisle, Cumbria, and claims she has sported the same vibrant ginger hair for the last three years.

But on her return to lessons following the Easter holidays she claims she was ordered to tone it down after teachers decided the colour was inappropriate.

Emily Reay (pictured) a pupil at Trinity School in Carlisle, claims she has sported the same colour of hair for the last three years. But now teachers have told her to tone it down or she will be banned from lessons

'Everybody knows me as that "young ginger singer"': Talented musician Emily says her hair is her trademark

Now, during her last year of A-levels, Emily - who is naturally auburn - has been told she is banned from lessons until she changes her appearance.

She was informed of the action being taken at the end of Monday's assembly.

'I was very angry at first, and then burst into tears. I've had the same colour for the past three years, and nobody at school has commented on it,' said Emily at her home in Carlisle.

A talented musician, Emily claims her ginger hair is her trademark.

Determined not to miss out on important lessons Emily says she will return to school with her hair pinned up

Emily says teachers at Trinity School in Carlisle

say she is banned from lessons until she changes her hair

'Everybody knows me as that "young ginger singer". For me it is a confidence thing. If I had to dye my hair brown, I would lose this,' said Emily.

I was very angry at first, and then burst into tears
Emily Reay

Her parents Julie and Andy Reay went to the school to discuss the matter with sixth-form headteacher Andrew Winter.

They claim they were told that Emily's hair colour needed to be changed by next Monday or she would not be allowed to continue her education.

'I had to dye my hair to a more natural colour, or tone it down considerably,' said Emily. 'I offered to pin it up, or wear a beanie hat, but I was told 'no' to both.'

Her parents are backing their daughter's decision not to change her hair colour.

Determined not to miss out on important lessons Emily (pictured) says she plans to return to school with her hair pinned up and 'hopes nothing is said'

'They had her in tears. They do not realise what her hair means to her,' said Mrs Reay, 44.

'The irony is she is playing Scaramouche in the school's adaptation of We Will Rock You, which is about society suppressing people's creativity and self-expression.

'The school's uniform policy clearly states no unnatural hair colours, like blue or green. But is ginger not

a natural hair colour?' she added.

Emily said: 'I was told my hair had been a bone of contention since the beginning of the school year but they had let it slip up until now.

'But the laughable thing is my hair was brighter than this on prom night and I won best hairstyle award.'

Mrs Reay added: 'Emily has natural auburn hair, but her hair has been this colour for so long now it is part of her.

'It's like living in the Victorian times. I would say her education is more important.'

Determined not to miss out on important lessons Emily says she will return to school with her hair pinned up.

'I have to hope nothing is said. It is too damaging a stage for my education.'

Sixth-form head Mr Winter said: 'Trinity School sixth-form students are role models for the rest of the school. We have a policy of maintaining high standards.

'All sixth form students are issued with information about what is acceptable or unacceptable at the start of the academic year. The vast majority of parents are very keen on our high standards.'

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Redhead banned from school weeks before her A-levels for being too GINGER

mirror.co.uk

- 18:16, 15 April 2015
- By David Aspinall

Emily Reay, 17, was told she cannot return to lessons until she dyes her hair a more 'natural' colour

Emily Reay

Banned: Emily Reay was told she would need to change her hair colour to be allowed back into class

A teenage girl has been banned from school just weeks before her A-levels as her hair is too GINGER.

Emily Reay, 17, was told she cannot return to lessons until she dyes her trademark look to a more 'natural' colour.

Pretty Emily, who is naturally auburn, has sported the same hair colour for three years but has now been told her redhead locks are inappropriate.

Teachers hit her with the bombshell when she returned to Trinity School in Carlisle, Cumbria, after the Easter holidays and believes the ban could affect her exam prospects.

Emily, a talented musician, said: "When they told me I just burst into tears – I was so angry.

"I've had the same colour for the past three years, and nobody at school has commented on it.

"Everyone knows me as that 'young ginger singer'.

Caters

Shocked: Emily Reay with her mum Julie

"For me it is all about confidence.

"If I had to dye my hair brown, I would lose that."

Her parents Julie and Andy went to the school to discuss the matter with sixth-form headteacher Andrew Winter.

Julie, 44, said: "The school's uniform policy clearly states no unnatural hair colours, like blue or green.

"Is ginger not a natural hair colour?

"They had Emily in tears.

"They don't realise what her hair means to her.

"Her hair might naturally be auburn, but she's had this colour for so long now it is part of her.

"It's like living in the Victorian times."

Caters

Exams: The talented musician believes the ban could harm her exam prospects

Determined not to miss out on important lessons, a defiant Emily says she will return to school with her hair pinned up.

She said: "I have to hope nothing is said.

"It is too damaging at this stage of my education."

On behalf of the school, Mr Winter said students are told of the uniform policy at the start of each year.

He said: "Trinity School sixth-form students are role models for the rest of the school.

"We have a policy of maintaining high standards.

"All sixth form students are issued with information about what is acceptable or unacceptable at the start of the academic year.

"The vast majority of parents are very keen on our high standards."

Caters Caters

Rules: Trinity School in Carlisle, Cumbria, says its policy is spelled out to pupils

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Replacing carpet at Jerusalem shrine reveals religious rift

yahoo.com

By DANIEL ESTRIN April 21, 2015 7:29 AM

In this Sunday, April 19, 2015 photo, workers place new carpets at the Dome of the Rock shrine in Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock enshrines the large rock slab where Muslim tradition says Mohammed ascended to heaven. Jews believe the rock may be where the holiest part of the two ancient temples stood about 2,000 years ago. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

JERUSALEM (AP) — It began as a routine remodeling project: Muslim authorities replacing an old carpet worn thin by masses of worshippers at the Dome of the Rock, the iconic, gold-topped shrine that overlooks the Old City of Jerusalem.

But there is no such thing as routine remodeling when it comes to the most contested piece of real estate in Jerusalem, where the presence of a mere screwdriver can threaten to ignite religious tensions.

The carpet has sparked a verbal holy war over the hilltop compound, which is revered by Jews and Muslims whose competing claims often spill over into violence.

Israeli archaeological authorities say the repairs were carried out behind their backs, and an Israeli government minister urged an immediate halt to the work, claiming it might cause irreparable damage. Frustrated Israeli researchers say previously undocumented ancient floor designs were discovered when the old carpets were peeled off, but they didn't get a chance to document the designs before workmen covered them up with the new carpet.

And some researchers claim the Bible's deepest secrets may lie beneath some of the newly exposed floor designs.

"Something is there. I don't know what. But something is hidden there," said Israeli archaeologist Zachi Dvira, who studies the site.

View gallery

In this Sunday, April 19, 2015 photo a worker places new carpets at the Dome of the Rock shrine in J …

Officials with the Waqf, the Muslim authority that administers the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, which includes the Dome of the Rock, reject the Israeli accusations.

Sheikh Azzam Tamimi, the head of the Waqf, said the work is long overdue and has defiantly proclaimed that he was forbidding any Israeli involvement.

"Our work in Al Aqsa is transparent," he told The Associated Press. "We are only putting down carpet and felt. Nothing more, nothing less."

The work quietly began more than a month ago, and Israel facilitated the renovation project, said Jamal Al Quda, a member of a group of Jordanian carpet layers who received Israeli visas for the job.

A packing list dated March 11 from an Egyptian carpet company to the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv lists 80 bales of carpeting for the Marwani prayer area located at the compound, and the prayer area encircling the rock slab inside the dome.

View gallery

In this Sunday, April 19, 2015 photo, a worker carries new carpets at the Dome of the Rock shrine in …

Jordan's King Abdullah II financed the project, according to Waqf. Israel captured Jerusalem's Old City from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, but under a longstanding agreement, Jordan remains the custodian of the area's Muslim holy sites.

On a recent afternoon in a small cave underneath the shrine's rock, Al Quda dribbled Israeli all-purpose glue from a large tin onto an intricate stone tile decoration on the cave's marble floor. He said it was necessary to affix the base layer of thin dark felt before rolling out the carpet above it.

Some Israeli archaeologists are alarmed about the glue used but Al Quda said the glue wouldn't damage the floor.

"It comes off my hand," he said, rubbing his fingers.

The cryptic geometric designs have sparked the imagination of some researchers about what secrets may lay beneath.

View gallery
In this Sunday, April 19, 2015 photo, a cleric walks on the new carpets at the Dome of the Rock shri …

Ancient Jewish traditions say the gold-cased Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments, may have been hidden away in a chamber when the First Jewish Temple was destroyed some 2,500 years ago. It's an Indiana Jones-type mystery that touches upon a holy grail for biblical enthusiasts.

While Jerusalem may be the most excavated city in the world, the Dome of the Rock and its hilltop plaza are an archaeological gold mine that has never been properly dug because of the political sensitivities surrounding the site, which is considered Judaism's holiest spot and Islam's third holiest.

The Dome of the Rock enshrines the large rock slab where Muslim tradition says the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven. Jews believe the rock may be where the holiest part of the two ancient Temples stood as early as about 3,000 years ago — and where religious Jews pray a third Temple will one day be built. The adjacent Western Wall, believed to be one of the last remnants of the Temple complex, is the holiest site where Jews can pray. Palestinian officials reject Jewish historical ties to the site.

The competing claims have spilled over into violence.

In 1999, the Muslim authorities who administer the site dug an enormous hole 12 meters (40 feet) deep as part of construction for an underground prayer area, dumping 10,000 tons of earth in a nearby valley and an east Jerusalem dump.

View gallery
In this Sunday, April 19, 2015 photo, workers place carpets over ancient floor designs in the cave u …

The director of the Israeli Antiquities Authority at the time called it an "archaeological crime." For years, Dvira and veteran Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay have been leading a team of archaeologists and volunteers in combing through the dirt for historical finds.

The initiative, called the Temple Mount Sifting Project, is conducted under the auspices of the Elad Foundation, a group that also purchases Arab homes in contested parts of East Jerusalem and helps move Jews in. Critics say this nationalist agenda should not mix with archaeology.

Israel's state comptroller wrote a scathing report in 2010 about the Muslim authorities' illicit work projects at the compound and Israel's failure at enforcing supervision there. Israeli officials kept the report classified out of concern that its publication could harm the sensitive relationship with Jordan.

Tens of thousands of worshippers attend weekly Friday prayers, and the carpets have been replaced before — most recently 12 years ago, at a time of heightened violence when Israeli

antiquities officials were granted limited access to the site.

Past renovation projects were done quietly behind the scenes. Leaked photos posted on social media sites — combined with the political influence of Israeli nationalists monitoring the site — drew extra attention and fueled the latest controversy.

Last week, Israel's housing minister, Uri Ariel of the nationalist Jewish Home party, sent an alarmed letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the carpeting project.

"There is no need to elaborate on how important this site is, where every modification, every excavation with heavy equipment can cause irreparable harm to the foundations of the Temple," Ariel wrote.

Photos that were leaked to Facebook from the off-limits restoration site showed a number of geometric floor patterns never before documented by archaeologists, said Frankie Snyder, a researcher with the Temple Mount Sifting Project.

Some apparently date to when the Crusaders controlled the complex in the 12th century, she said.

"I'm worried about damage of the original floors," said Barkay, the archaeologist. "The patterns were never properly documented."

Israel Hasson, the director of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, said once the government body learned about the renovation, it made arrangements with the Waqf to send an archaeologist to document some of the floor patterns, but others already had been covered by the maroon and beige carpeting.

"We got to part of them. We didn't get to it all. I won't ask anyone to pull up the carpets to document it," Hasson said. "We will wait for the next opportunity. We're sure to be here over the next 2,000 years."

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Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Residents retain Cosoleacaque "Warlock" to do ritual to SantaMuerte

19:16

Cosoleacaque.- On Wednesday, a number of residents of the city of Buenos Aires, an entity which is located about twenty miles north of the county seat of Cosoleacaque, **detained and then handed over to the state police three suspected witches; which caught the attention of the population, is that these people burned candles in the middle of the football field site**.

The alleged witches match names: Nicolás Martínez Cruz native Oteapan Moses Torres Jimenez and the progenitor of this, Bertha Jimenez native of San Pedro Martir.

The neighbors, then led these people to the Municipal subagent also were assured of Santa Muerte candles and other liquids with which they perform according to their sorcery.

When interviewing the Municipal Subagent explained that some parents were armed value retained suspected sorcerers.

After being questioned by the sub agent, said these were paid three hundred dollars to make witchcraft to the subagent and his secretary to omit his name, also were taken to a cemetery where he allegedly had kept near a grave alia to spell.

Posted in: Veracruz

1 Reviews:

Anonymous said ...

is not a crime, only ignorania

April 16, 2015 9:32

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Retired CIA Agent Confesses on Deathbed: "I Killed Marilyn Monroe"

worldnewsdailyreport.com

March 25th, 2015 | by Barbara Johnson

Mr. Hodges swears he remembers vividly, each of the assassinations he committed for the CIA. He claims that all 37 of the murders he committed on the American soil, were ordered by his commanding officer, Major James "Jimmy" Hayworth. Marilyn Monroe died between midnight and 1 AM, on August 5, 1962. Mr Hodges claims he entered her room while she was sleeping and injected her with a massive dose of chloral hydrate (a powerful sedative), mixed with Nembutal (a short-acting barbiturate), causing her death.

Twitter

Norfolk, Virginia| A 78-year old retired officer of the CIA, Normand Hodges, has made a series of astonishing confessions since he was admitted at the Sentara General Hospital on Monday. He claims he committed 37 assassinations for the American government between 1959 and 1972, including the actress and model, Marilyn Monroe.

Mr. Hodges, who worked for the CIA for 41 years as an operative with top-level security clearances, claims he was often employed as a hitman by the organization, to assassinate individuals who could represent a threat to the security of the country.

Trained as both a sniper and a martial arts expert, Mr Hodges says he also has significant experience with more unconventional methods of inflicting harm upon others, like poisons and explosives.

Mr. Hodges swears he remembers vividly, each of the assassinations he committed for the CIA. He claims that all 37 of the murders he committed on the American soil, were ordered by his commanding officer, Major James "Jimmy" Hayworth.

The elderly man claims he committed his assassinations between August 1959 and March 1972, at a time when he says "*the CIA had its own agenda*". He says he was part of an operative cell of five members which carried out political assassinations across the country. Most of their victims were political activists, journalists and union leaders, but he also claims that he killed a few scientists and artists whose ideas represented a threat to the interests of the United States.

Mr. Hodges says that Marilyn Monroe remains unique among his victims, as she is the only woman he ever assassinated. He claims he has no regrets, however, as he says that she had become a "*threat for the security of the country*" and had to be eliminated.

"We had evidence that Marilyn Monroe had not only slept with Kennedy, but also with Fidel Castro" claims M. Hodges.***" My commanding officer, Jimmy Hayworth, told me that she had to die, and that it had to look like a suicide or an overdose. I had never killed a woman before, but I obeyed orders... I did it for America! She could have transmitted strategic information to the communists, and we couldn't allow that! She had to die! I just did what I had to do!"***

Marilyn Monroe died between midnight and 1 AM, on August 5, 1962. Mr Hodges claims he entered her room while she was sleeping and injected her with a massive dose of chloral hydrate (a powerful sedative), mixed with Nembutal (a short-acting barbiturate), causing her death.

The 78-year old man was placed under custody by the FBI, which is taking Mr Hodges' confession very seriously and has opened an investigation to verify his allegations. The investigation might be very complicated, however, as very few written files are available on such secret activities and most of the actors implicated in the various cases are already dead.

The most important witness in the story after Mr. Hodges himself, his alleged commanding officer, Major James Hayworth, died of a heart attack in 2011. Two of the other three "CIA assassins" identified by Mr Hodges are also dead, and the last one, Captain Keith McInnis, went missing in action in 1968 and is presumed dead.

93 Comments

1. sergei vanderwiel says:
March 26, 2015 at 4:48 am

no threat what a jurk follow orders without question how was she to get to Castro ? He should have taken her with him anyway it`s good to know she didn`t do it to herself

.....peace

Reply

- RL White says:
April 16, 2015 at 8:18 pm

I appreciate your thinking to ask the question of how she would get to Castro… it is an obvious point to make. What I would like to point you to is that as an agent—if he did in fact assassinate Marilyn as he claims to have done—they are foot-soldiers and just follow orders. They are not trained to think. They are given such orders when they can be counted on to do just that, "FOLLOW ORDERS"…. just a thought.

- spaniard says:
April 17, 2015 at 12:52 am

The son of America

- Clinton says:
April 17, 2015 at 2:16 am

In the CIA, just like the military, once you're given an order you execute You're orders to the letter. You're job isn't to question it's just to get the job done. Now I'm defending him or the CIA on this,I'm just saying how it works.

- Clinton says:
April 17, 2015 at 2:18 am

Not defending*

2. Slim Pickins says:
March 26, 2015 at 4:59 pm

They should shackle his ankles to the bed rail and torture the basterd

Reply

- nope says:
March 29, 2015 at 12:03 am

He was doing his fucking job and not every job if flippin burgers and fuckin' off on the internet

- No says:
March 29, 2015 at 9:08 am

To nope: would you be defending him if his job was to kill you. Just because they are orders doesn't give him the ok to take another life.

- nope says:
March 29, 2015 at 11:45 pm

To no: and exactly what do brave soldiers do? Take orders kill those who threaten democracy. Yeh bitch

- Trouble says:
March 30, 2015 at 9:11 am

To Nope: Does this include citizens of your own country? I know of no soldiers that have been ordered to kill other Americans or other Canadians (as I'm Canadian)

- MonroeNoMo says:
April 3, 2015 at 8:02 pm

>_> torture him? please… we're not ISIS, man.

- Whatever says:
April 5, 2015 at 6:25 am

To Trouble: So what you're saying is that, as long as you do not murder your own citizens then it is ok?!

- Orders says:
April 15, 2015 at 4:55 pm

Army is a good example of this – people just follow orders and follow political agenda that been set out to them. For those who doubt, look up Milgram's Experiment

- Anthony says:

April 16, 2015 at 1:09 am

Well orders are orders not everything is going to be sunshine and happy.

- kc says:

April 16, 2015 at 4:03 am

I agree with nope. Yes I would not be saying thatif it were me. But if you are so tied into a secret government agency and there is no way out, then I would do my f***'n job

- WHAT says:

April 16, 2015 at 3:18 pm

Don't hate him, he was doing his job! If he did not, somebody would do it anyway. It sounds cruel but that's the way the government works for looooooooo…ng time! He wasn't mastermind, he was the puppet of his superior.

p.s. stay away from dangerously powerful men, girls

- Markus says:

April 16, 2015 at 5:58 pm

no, retard, he was just a pawn for the government you inbred.

- Kill Him says:

April 17, 2015 at 1:08 pm

To all of here saying He was just doing his job! I suspect you are saying this because you too might be in the same field or have experience with this. Two words for you: Nuremberg Trials.

If you are given an ILLEGAL ORDER to kill a fellow American, you refuse it! This old man should be publicly beheaded for his following orders to kill another American. Usually when people giving death bed confessions, they at least have some fucking remorse, no no not this sorry excuse for an American.

The CIA needs to be abolished completely because of this.

- jimmy curry says:

April 17, 2015 at 1:43 pm

Himmler, Goebels, Mengela, they were just following orders

- YES says:

April 17, 2015 at 2:54 pm

Was his job… and if you are a threat for your own country, the threat must be eliminated, even if you are just a "citizen"

- sonOfFreedom says:

April 17, 2015 at 5:46 pm

To protect the constitution from threats both foreign and domestic… That's the oath every single soldier makes, so yes, if an American citizen threatens the united states, they will be eliminated

- sonOfFreedom says:

April 17, 2015 at 5:47 pm

Defend*

3. ramalama says:
March 27, 2015 at 2:45 am

Well,that's interesting. I wonder how credible he is. I mean he's pretty old & maybe has dementia, I'd like to know how that plays out.

Reply

- Doubt it says:
April 17, 2015 at 5:40 pm

I don't think Dementia explains it, he's obviously lucid enough to recall specific dates, and the ways he took out his targets, people with dementia aren't that well equipped mentally to keep their stories straight, in fact having dementia pretty much guarantees you will think one thing one day and another the next.

4. ramalama says:
March 27, 2015 at 2:45 am

And he is handcuffed.

Reply

5. fox says:
March 27, 2015 at 12:48 pm

Your failing to see the larger issue here, he was just a puppet for the CIA. They were the ones giving him the orders, how are we supposed to trust a hidden branch of our government/military thats kills its own citizens in secret???

Reply

- Michael Freeman says:
March 27, 2015 at 4:25 pm

I know that you're not all that naive, he is just telling the world which most of us already know. the government has been assassinating individuals for a very long time, the US is not as pretty and as humble as everyone plays it out to be. we can be some very worthless individuals. like they say god bless america.

- Trouble says:
March 30, 2015 at 9:15 am

God Bless America, because the rest of us won't. (Canadian)

- SQuinn says:
March 31, 2015 at 3:43 am

How are we supposed to trust anyone at all when these "puppets" are so enamored of violence they would abandon their dubious senses of morality and kill on command? He is nothing short of a serial killer, and just as worthy of the death penalty.

- penny says:
April 15, 2015 at 3:42 pm

i agree

- spaniard says:

April 17, 2015 at 12:49 am

Welcome to America

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By Dana Matthews on 04/23/2015 whofortedblog.com

Deciphering Hollywood's Scariest Movie: Return to Babylon's Terrifying Ghosts Caught on Film

Screen Shot 2015-04-23 at 11.08.19 AM

For some people, a good horror movie is enough to give them sleepless nights for a week. If that's you, you *might* want to skip this article and move on to some nice alien abduction stories, or maybe a vintage mystery, because the legend behind the film *Return to Babylon* might scar you for life.

There are quite a few "haunted movie" myths floating about the internet, in fact, there's a handful of movies themselves that tackle the subject of haunted or cursed films, *The Grudge* or *V.H.S.*, for example. 2012's *Return to Babylon*, however, claims to be the real deal. After reviewing the evidence, you just might agree.

RETURN-TO-BABYLON-LOGO

Directed by Alex Monty Canawati, *Return to Babylon* has amassed quite a reputation for itself over the years, thanks in part to the legends circulating around the making of the movie. If you're inclined to believe that we're capable of photographing and recording evidence from beyond the grave (or even somewhere else entirely), you'll likely be more open to RtB's frightening history.

According to Canawati, he and his producer discovered 19 rolls of 16mm film abandoned on the Hollywood Boulevard sidewalk one afternoon. Deciding it was a twist of fate, the pair began writing a movie that would utilize the old black and white film. *Return to Babylon* was filmed entirely on an original hand-cracked camera, and focused on the scandals of some of the 1920s most famous movie stars.

This all sounds pretty harmless so far, right? Yeah, well, keep reading.

According to some of the cast, including Jennifer Tilly and Debi Mazar, it wasn't long before strange things began happening on the set of the film. Actors and actresses reported feeling otherworldly, oppressive entities lurking about, and in some cases many of the crew claimed

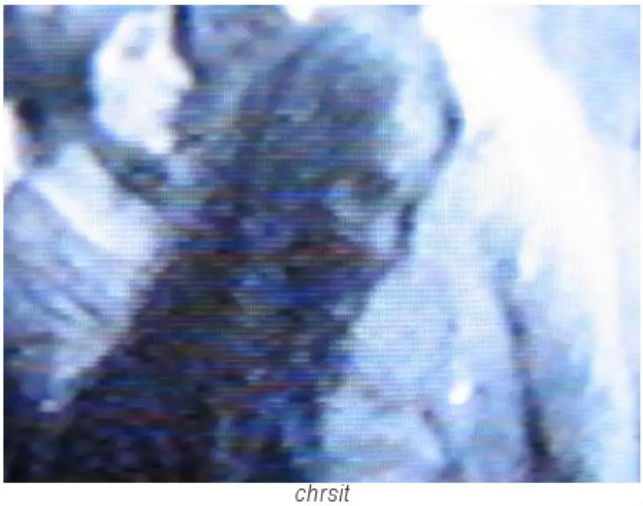
to have been reached out and grabbed by unseen hands more than a few times. This bizarre activity continued on for the duration of principal photography.

Screen Shot 2015-04-23 at 11.08.50 AM

What the actors didn't know was that Canawati and his crew had started to notice strange things in the editing room. Mysterious figured began appearing in the negatives; sometimes they were just bizarre shadows, but other times they were much less ambiguous.

Screen Shot 2015-04-23 at 11.08.37 AM

The negatives revealed frightening and grotesque changes to the actors. Their hands appeared stretched, mouths twisted in agony, and faces hideously distorted. Entities appeared out of thin air, and disappeared completely, none of which were present on set while the movie was being filmed.



chrsit

The strange activity captured on film drew the attention of the Brooks Institute of Photography and several paranormal and film enthusiasts, who were all ready to prove the anomaly a fake. In the end, not one person could definitively explain what had "manifested" on the film's negatives.

One proposed conclusion was that the effects were created via countless animations, however the movie's budget was much too small to afford the cost. Another explanation offered was that merging film running at 16 frames per-second with digital video running at 24 frames per-second may have caused the strange impression that something paranormal was happening on the negatives.

Screen Shot 2015-04-23 at 11.09.03 AM

Screen Shot 2015-04-23 at 11.09.21 AM

Unfortunately, the film never found distribution, and according to the director has been the source of continued financial and personal bad luck. Canawati has come to believe that a "Higher Power" was trying to get a message to the world through his film, and that the strange images weren't demonic, but rather "Christ-like", and evidence that he captured something much larger than just the actors on film.

I know what you're thinking. This guy made-up a great campfire story to create buzz for his upcoming film. Well, I'm not saying you're wrong, but I'm also not saying that you're right. Sure, there's a very good chance that the explanation is something completely mundane — old film is volatile and can become contaminated very easy.

But just what if… what if the film canisters Alex Canawati found that day weren't meant to be used? What if someone… or something… knew that the mysterious film would inevitably cause Canawati to obsess over it for years and years, bringing with his obsession a long run of bad luck? What if Canawati captured evidence of something that was never from this world to begin with?

I guess we'll never truly know, will we?

What do you think of *Return to Babylon*? Watch the clip and let us know in the comments below.

Dana Matthews

5 Comments

1. Koal

04/24/2015 at 10:43 AM

The film looks awful and the story reeks of an attempt for free publicity for a low-budget and poor quality film. This is what happens when a film and its budget are just an excuse for a Hollywood coke party.

- John

04/28/2015 at 5:19 PM

I agree with you. First Alex Canawati needs to lay off the coke when on camera promoting this 'so called movie'. And if the standard for paranormal is Maria's hair whipping around her chin making it look like she has a beard, that is beyond pathetic. Of course Canawati seems to make it clear that the movie will be mainly about bashing Lord Jesus, as usual. At least this movie will show how pathetic Hollywood really is.

2. Coppertop

04/24/2015 at 1:16 PM

Here's a tad more information on the "paranormal aspects" of the film, but it's not much. I get the impression this film's going to become the source for more than a few urban legends/creepypastas over the next few years.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWbc7kBdC28

That said, I like the idea of this haunted movie reel. It's certainly a good story that has bite.

3. Aimee

05/02/2015 at 7:26 PM

He should just release it in its entirety on Youtube. It's never going to be released properly at this rate, no matter how much publicity or urban legends surround it.

4. Raven Storm

05/02/2015 at 9:46 PM

Perhaps it's the locations they filmed at.

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For this city, crime does pay

April 30, 2015 news.com.au

The town where it literally pays to be a criminal

- by: NICK WHIGHAM
- From: news.com.au

ONS "change agents" interact with the community to gain information *Source:* YouTube

CRIMINAL activity is often motivated by the desire for financial rewards. Recognising this, a Californian town has opted for a controversial plan to pay would-be criminals not to engage in illegal conduct.

Richmond, located in the eastern region of the San Francisco Bay area has been quietly implementing a program that identifies the worst troublemakers in the community and pays them a monthly stipend to behave themselves.

The unorthodox plan may sound crazy, but it has been producing positive results for nearly five years.

The success of the city's program which is carried out by the Office of Neighbourhood Safety (ONS) who work alongside police, was detailed in the latest episode of Chicago public radio's, *This American Life*.

Richmond was once one of the country's most dangerous towns as gun violence reached uncontrollable levels in 2009. With authorities on the brink of despair, they sought outside counsel on ways to curb the violence.

It was this that led Devone Boggan to establish the ONS and it was one key piece of information that caused him to implement his controversial strategy. Upon learning that 70 per cent of the homicides and firearm assaults in 2009 were directly linked to just 17 people, Boggan had an epiphany.

"I thought, 'Wow, if we can wrap our arms around that and just engage the 17 people in a different way, that could have a significant impact on the narrative of what's really going on in the city of Richmond," he told *Al Jazeera* last year.

He thought if he could inoculate the most violent, the flow on effects would make the

community safer and change the general attitude towards the authorities.

Boggan with fellows of the ONS program. *Source:* YouTube

Boggan sent his staff out to find those men and offer them a deal. The ONS would pay them a stipend and help them with basic goals like getting a driver's license and obtaining health care in exchange for their good behaviour. The program also implemented a strong focus on conflict-resolution counselling.

Over an 18-month period, ONS participants receive anywhere from US$300 to $1,000 per month, depending on their progress following a "life map" of personal goals.

"I was just surviving, doing what I had to do to survive. And when they came along, they gave me a path" said ONS participant D'vondre Woodards in a documentary released last month.

In the beginning it took a lot of convincing from ONS workers but once word spread it became easier to recruit the young men into the program — although the amount of money they receive has lessened. And once they're in, it's all about breaking the cycle of anti-social behaviour. Something which former ONS fellow Rasheed Shaepard was able to do.

"What's hard is being in the streets every night trying to fool the police ... Once you get onto the straight, walking that straight line, that's easy. It's a straight line, you know," he said.

ONS "change agents" interact with the community to gain information *Source:* YouTube

It may be a radical approach to rely more heavily on the carrot than the stick, but the results are beginning to speak for themselves as crime is down in the city and the murder rate has dropped by over two thirds.

In 2013, Richmond saw its lowest number of homicides in 33 years with a total of 16. Last year, that number dropped to a new recorded low of 11 which is a far cry from the recorded high of 62 in 1990.

While community members believe it is due to a number of factors including a steady increase in employment, they attribute a lot of the city's reduction in crime to the Office of Neighbourhood Safety.

But despite the results, the morally questionable idea of paying criminals a financial advance is not without its opponents.

One of those outspoken critics is former Richmond city councilman, Courtland "Corky" Booze, who once helped integrate the sport of legalised drag racing into the community. He has repeatedly called for concrete proof that the program works and amid demands for an audit of the office, reportedly said he wanted to bring the ONS "to their knees."

"White folks like to pat black folks on the head, give 'em a few bucks, and think that their problems will go away. It never happens," the eccentric councilman told *Mother Jones*.

A group of Richmond men celebrate after beating up a rival gang member. *Source:* YouTube

The ONS typically operates on a yearly budget of around $1.2 million (as well as private donations).

Paying criminals not to engage in anti-social behaviour may be akin to putting a band-aid on a bullet wound. But for now, it's helping to stop the blood.

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Roadwork may unearth forgotten bodies on Chicago's Northwest Side

2015-04-29 chicagotribune.com

Roadwork may unearth forgotten bodies on Chicago's Northwest Side

Dunning Memorial Park
Phil Velasquez, Chicago Tribune
Bodies found in graves from other construction projects on Chicago's Northwest Side were placed in nearby Read Dunning Memorial Park, once a site for burial of the poor and others.
Bodies found in graves from other construction projects on Chicago's Northwest Side were placed in nearby Read Dunning Memorial Park, once a site for burial of the poor and others. (Phil Velasquez, Chicago Tribune)
By Paulina Firozi Chicago Tribune
Cemetery researcher on roadwork and Chicago graves: 'Cemetery should be left alone as best as possible'

As construction gets underway on a stretch of Oak Park Avenue on Chicago's Northwest Side, city workers may uncover thousands of bodies buried in the area.

Many forgotten souls were buried in the Dunning neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th century, according to cemetery researcher Barry Fleig.

Fleig, who is the former cemetery chairman for the Chicago Genealogical Society, said beginning in 1890 up to 10,000 bodies were buried in the area. The land once housed the Cook County Almshouse, a county insane asylum, a tuberculosis hospital and a potter's field that eventually became Cook County Cemetery. There, the city buried the poor, crime victims who could not be identified, those who died at hospitals and some criminals, often without official documentation.

He's now worried that those who "were forgotten in life" will be "forgotten again as a whole."

"Construction and developers are the natural enemies to a cemetery," he said. "How respectful will they be? How deep will they dig? I don't know."

Fleig spent five years compiling data about the thousands of bodies buried in the area and published a searchable database in the fall. He said there are more than 6,900 bodies in the particular area under construction, which began Monday and will continue through the end of

July.

Fleig, who now lives in Phoenix, said he got calls from neighbors in the area warning him about the construction. He said he reached out to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to alert them to potential damage to the historic mass burial site. The agency's spokesman Chris Wills said residents have sent emails, but there have not been any discussions with the city regarding the burial plot. Wills said if workers find remains during construction, the agency will likely get involved with plans to properly handle and relocate the bodies.

"The cemetery should be left alone as best as possible," Fleig said. "I know they have to redo Oak Park Avenue, and I can go along with that, but they have to be respectful and careful."

Ald. Timothy Cullerton, 38th, said the Chicago Department of Transportation is aware of the presence of a possible cemetery on the site and will "proceed with caution." He said there are statewide protocols in place to call the coroner's office and determine where to relocate bodies "in a respectful manner" should any be found.

Cullerton added it was not an unprecedented situation.

When bodies were found during previous construction in the area, such as the shopping centers on West Irving Park Road, construction was temporarily halted until the remains could be relocated. Some, he said, were placed in the Read Dunning Memorial Park nearby, a space that has been dedicated to bodies buried in the area from the 1850s to the 1920s.

"Everybody is aware that there is a possibility, maybe a probability of running into something," he said. "And they're taking great pains to make sure they comply with all the state laws.Also, it's just human decency."

He said department workers also would use available technology, such as ground penetrating radar, to view what's below the surface before they dig into a particular area.

The construction on northbound Oak Park Avenue between Irving Park Road and Forest Preserve Drive is a general upgrade to the street, which currently has no sidewalks, curbs or gutters, Cullerton said. Repaving of the road also will prevent future flooding in the area. With plans for a possible Veterans Administration hospital or school on the property north of the street, he said it was a necessary project.

"If there are remains, it might be respectful to relocate them anyway, given the condition of the road," he said.

pfirozi@tribpub.com

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Rogue Microwave Ovens Are the Culprits Behind Mysterious Radio Signals

nationalgeographic.com

- No Place Like Home:
- 4 days ago

Let's be clear about one thing: Reheating coffee in the microwave is always a poor life choice. But it becomes especially unwise if you're using a microwave oven near a radio telescope and you're so eager for that icky, burnt and wholly unsatisfying taste that you prematurely pop the coffee out before the oven's timer goes off.

ZING!

You may have just unleashed a small but mighty radio signal that could be detected by a nearby, sensitive radio telescope. And, if you happen to be reheating your coffee at the Parkes Observatory in Australia, you could be contributing to the growing collection of mysterious radio signals known as perytons. Well, the collection of formerly mysterious radio signals: A study posted to the arXiv on April 9 identified microwave ovens at the Parkes site as the rather mundane source of perytons.

"It was quite surprising that it ended up being microwaves," says study author Emily Petroff of Australia's Swinburne University of Technology.

For years, astronomers had been puzzled by these brief but intense bursts of radio waves that in some ways appeared to be coming from deep space. There have been dozens of reported perytons, some dating back to the 1990s, and theories about the signals' origin included ball lightning, aircraft, and components of the telescopes themselves.

But almost since the beginning, one thing has been clear about perytons: Despite mimicking a deep space signal, they're produced by a source that's somewhere near Earth. Astronomers knew this because perytons simultaneously show up in multiple viewing fields rather than arriving from a single point.

In this respect, perytons are very much unlike their cousins called fast radio bursts, highly energetic signals that truly appear to be coming from very, very far away and have no known origin.

Petroff and her colleagues discovered the source of perytons after they installed a real-time radio interference monitor at the Parkes telescope. In January, the telescope detected three of the signals – and the interference monitor picked up three simultaneous interference signatures. The team recognized the interloping frequencies as possibly belonging to a

microwave oven.

When Petroff and her colleagues tested their hypothesis, they found they could create perytons on demand simply by opening the oven door before the timer had dinged.

Why is the impatience over a warming Hot Pocket important? If you open the microwave door before the timer goes off, the thing in the oven that produces microwaves – it's called a magnetron – hasn't had a chance to completely shut off. And so, the microwave oven is briefly transmitting radio waves into the open.

"Radio emission escaping from microwave ovens during the magnetron shut-down phase neatly explain all of the observed properties of the peryton signals," the study authors write. They then identified the offending microwaves as the ones in the staff kitchen and visitors center at the observatory.

Sensitive radio telescopes, like the ones at Parkes, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, can easily detect those rogue microwaves if the telescopes are pointed in the right direction.

"Microwave ovens are a problem for us – and none exist on site. They are prohibited," says Arecibo director Robert Kerr. Other facilities that don't ban microwave ovens altogether shield them in enclosures called Faraday cages, which are supposed to prevent detectable radiation from leaking out. In general, scientists try very hard to eliminate any potential source of Earth-based interference from mucking up radio astronomy data – and that means things like cell phones are a no-no near telescopes.

"Alas, radio telescope sites may appear to be occupied by Luddites," Kerr says. "No microwaves, no cell phones, no wireless routers, no bluetooth printers or headphones, and – more due to funding – often no food."

So, one of astrophysics' more exotic mysteries has a surprisingly down-to-Earth solution. But what does this mean about fast radio bursts? Might they also have an Earthly origin?

It seems unlikely, Petroff and her colleagues argue. The intricacies of the fast radio burst signals still suggest an extragalactic origin. And there are clear differences in the time distributions of the two types of signals. As one might expect from a cosmological signal, fast radio bursts tend to show up rather randomly around the clock. But, perhaps unsurprisingly in retrospect, the peryton data show those signals "clustering near the lunchtime hour."

Aha! A clue, Sherlock.

There are 26 Comments. Add Yours.

1. James Benford
April 10, 2015

This observation isn't at all surprising to me because I predicted it in a meeting with those same astronomers about a month ago. In fact I published the prediction that the

Parytons come from microwave ovens in at the Parke site last week at this website:

http://www.centauri-dreams.org/?p=32883

We have a vast microwave network all around us. Our cell phones, though not powerful, influence the stronger transmitters and antennas of the cell phone towers. Add to that the many internet hubs and general communication webs.
All these may have fast transients of largely unreported features. Radio astronomers had best study the transient background in detail, to eliminate false positives in their search for unusual astrophysical events,

James Benford

2. v
April 11, 2015

some luddites may like to live in the radio free area near radio telescopes but a lot of them are just people with some sort of sensitivity to radio waves. Whether this is a real disease or merely a nocebo effect, well thats a different topic

3. DShepherd
April 11, 2015

No Hot Pockets down here in Australia. Probably a meat pie instead.

4. Wow Signal?
:P April 11, 2015

So, could this have caused the “WOW” signal?

5. wilver
April 13, 2015

Creo q no solo estos aparatos usados por las personas a diarioausan emisiones q confunden a los astronomos los generadores electricos para soldaduras de CD q llegan a tener altos flujos de potencia podrian administrar ciertos falsos positivos con senales erroneas hay mucho en la tierra q puede crear falsos

6. David
April 13, 2015

if opening the oven door before its shutdown is causing a problem with deep space exploration, can you imagine how bad it is for you to be standing right beside it when you open the door.

7. Rakki
April 13, 2015

The obvious explanation for fast radio waves is aliens heating pizza pockets far, far away.

8. Terry Baker
April 13, 2015

Assuming the coffee isn't bad to begin with, re-heating it in a microwave oven can be a very good idea. You don't want to boil it. However, there's no better way to increase the average kinetic energy of the molecules in a cup of coffee than using a microwave oven. You are off the beam on this one.

(ND: I still say blech. But most of my family would agree with you.)

9. James Hultman
April 13, 2015

Just get a good toaster oven, a couple hot plates, and maybe an outdoor grill

10. Qest
April 13, 2015

So our current radio telescope technology isn't capable of isolating a relative location origin for the signals it picks up? That there was confusion between an earth generated signal and what may stem from "space" is both sad and hilarious.

11. Bob
April 13, 2015

"All your lunch are belong to us!"

12. greg szulgit
April 13, 2015

I wondered about that as well (and got very excited for a few moments!), but it turns out that microwave ovens are currently "not guilty" for the Wow! signal. I detail this in a comment on my own blog post about the Wow! signal:
http://ponderablescience.blogspot.co.uk/2015/04/the-wow-signal-most-important-ufo-here.html?showComment=1428933407678#c1239673412206736371

13. Mark
April 13, 2015

This is just what the microwaves want you to think.

14. FastFoodBurst
April 13, 2015

@Wow Signal?

Seems like a great question! According to Wiki, one million microwave ovens were sold in the US already in the one year of 1975. Wow was detected in 1977. The difference in frequency (1420 vs 1580) maybe could be explained by changes in microwave oven tech. Maybe the duration of 72 seconds vs 0.1 seconds could be explained by a microwave oven being active with an open door while heating the pizza slice?

A potential research question is: Will the likely abolishment of microwave ovens at radio telescopes improve the nutritional health of radio astronomers who work at night or in isolated locations?

15. Richard
April 13, 2015

Fast Radio Bursts could be due to ETs opening their microwave ovens before the timer goes off to get at their space coffee, no?

16. R Gumm
April 13, 2015

Little did anybody know that opening the door of the microwave, before the timer completed, would subject the user of a minute small amount of microwave energy. It would seem that microwaves would have a pause button that allowed the user to pause, stir the contents, and restart the microwave without having to reset the timer.

17. Otto
April 13, 2015

Hm… I'm no scientist, but I think the signal was only recieved once for a period of only 72 seconds.

It's possible that somebody put something in a very nearby microwave for just over a minute, but I think that if that was the cause they would have discovered a lot more Wow signals. So I would guess probably not.

18. Wanda Allen
April 13, 2015

There are many facilities that are using microwave energies to heat the atmosphere and lift the ionosphere.HAARP in Alaska and over 2 dozen around the world like it. Numerous towers are being put up all over cities that are meant for military applications, not cell towers. Sadly the advancement of technology is far exceeding the mental capacity of our fellow humans to use it wisely rather than worrying about the harmful effects it has on everyone.

19. Jim
April 13, 2015

Similarities with fast radio bursts. Hmmm. Does this mean that the first signs of

intelligent life on earth might be detected on some far away planet will be someone heating their coffee? Reverse true too?

20. Ken
April 13, 2015

Please enlighten us as to how re-heating your coffee with a microwave oven is a "poor life choice?" The have been proven safe and do NOT destroy nutrients nearly as much as other cooking methods. If you have no direct answer to this, don't perpetuate the myth of the dangers and food damages from microwave oven use. There's to much of this B.S. already out here.

(ND: Because it tastes gross.)

21. Ken
April 13, 2015

David, When the door is opened the power is instantly shut off to the magnetron. If there is ANY energy emitted when the door is opened, it is still within the very conservatively accepted levels. Those space receivers are exceptionally sensitive.

22. George
April 13, 2015

The background image of the radio telescope tells the real story, as the interference would come from HAARP emissions. The clouds in the background show HAARP radiation affecting the clouds. Microwave ovens inside of the tea room of the radio telescope could interfere as the standard of microwave ovens are ridiculous now due to the extreme increasing of the safety regulations, which are no longer stringent.

23. David M
April 13, 2015

Reminds me of Big Bang episode (Series 3 Episode 01 – The Electric Can Opener Fluctuation) where the guys feed Sheldon's detector false data from the static caused by turning the electric can opener on and off.

24. FastFoodBurst
April 14, 2015

72 seconds could've happened once in 1977 because of a malfunctioning microwave oven, I suggest. Some piece of food simply got stuck in that switch which the door uses to mechanically switch it off when opened. And because of that, the oven was either repaired or discarded, so the signal only happened once. We're talking about early models here.

It is only since a few years that radio telescopes have become sensitive enough to detect fast radio bursts, and thus fast food. Earlier the ovens only added to the length of

the error bar because fast bursts were averaged out over longer periods of time of real cosmic signals. I wonder which consumer appliances the super sensitive radio interferometer SKA will detect…

Maybe radio astronomers can sell their data to consumer marketing companies like Proctor & Gamble? Maybe mathematical statisticians can learn how to differ between a cup of coffee and a pizza slice?

(We really need to get to the far side of the Moon, away from this lunacy)

25. FastFoodBurst
April 14, 2015

The microwave oven background radiation and the Yum! signal. Nobel prize material.

26. FastFoodBurst
April 14, 2015

SETI, the Search for Edible Tasty Indian fastfood, focuses on precisely this same 1420 to 1720 MHz range, the so called water hole. And you can do it @Home!

Nah, now I'm evil. Radio astronomy is hard. Or not astronomy. And SETI has skillfully discarded all ovens in space signals, even though they at times use the same telescopes which detected these FRB.

Add Your Comments

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The Roswell alien photo is, in fact, a MUMMIFIED BOY

14:23 EST, 14 May 2015

dailymail.co.uk

Roswell ET photo is a MUMMIFIED BOY: Researcher unmasks image that claimed to show alien life 'beyond any doubt'

- **Images allegedly taken between 1947 and 1949 on Kodachrome film**
- **UFO 'scientists' charged $350 for people to attend unveiling of photos**
- **Researchers used software to zoom in and clear up part of the image**
- **They found the placard says: 'Mummified body of two year old boy'**

By Ellie Zolfagharifard For Dailymail.com

Last week, UFO researchers in Mexico City said they had two photographs taken in Roswell that provided 'undeniable' evidence of alien life.

The images, which created a buzz among conspiracy theorists, claimed to show a small human-shaped figure with an enlarged head - apparently in a display case with an unreadable placard.

Now researchers have cleared up one of the images and zoomed in on the placard to reveal that the slides is in fact and showed a mummified body of a child.

New images claiming to show the Roswell UFO crash provide 'undeniable' evidence of alien life, according to conspiracy theorists. Pictured is one of the images. Pictured is one of the slides claiming to show an alien

The work was done by a member of the Roswell Slides Research Team used a newly acquired source image of the placard seen in front of the body.

By using the commercial software, SmartDeblur, the researcher cleared up the blurred text.

The sign in front of the 'alien' reads: 'Mummified body of two year old boy.'

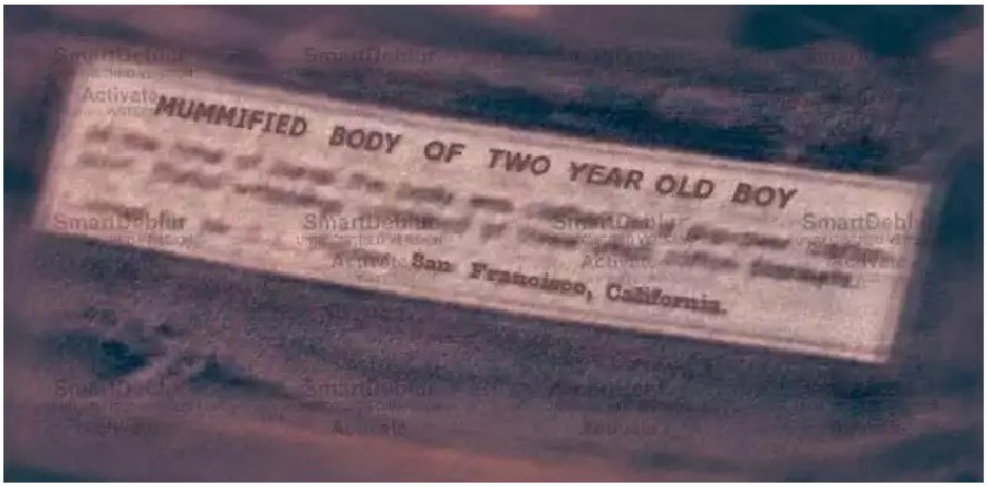
An identical photo was later discovered with the complete information: 'Mummified body of two year old boy.

'At the time of burial the body was clothed in a slip-over cotton shirt. Burial wrappings consisted of three small cotton blankets. Loaned by Mr. S. L. Palmer, San Francisco, California.'

The sign in front of the 'alien' reads: 'Mummified body of two year old boy.'An identical photo was later discovered with the complete information: 'At the time of burial the body was clothed in a slip-over cotton shirt. Burial wrappings consisted of three small cotton blankets. Loaned by Mr. S. L. Palmer, San Francisco'

Tony Braglia, a 'principal investigator' who analysed the slides, this week issued a public apology.

He said the dead alien was in fact a Native American child who lived in the ancient city of Mesa Verde.



ROSWELL: CONSPIRACY CAPITAL

Roswell, New Mexico sprang to international fame on July 8, 1947, when the local newspaper reported the capture of a 'flying saucer' by government officials in the town.

Over the decades since the discovery, conspiracy theorists have insisted that the debris came from an alien spacecraft, and that the fact was covered up by the military in their secret hangar, Area 51.

The continuing belief of alien activity in the area led the Air Force to launch an investigation into the crash in 1995.

Officials concluded that the 'UFO' was part of a balloon launched into the atmosphere as part of a secret government surveillance programme aimed at the USSR.

However, many have refused to accept that explanation, alleging a conspiracy to hide the existence of extra-terrestrial life.

Braglia claimed the incident was 'a serious case of mistaken identity' rather than a 'hoax' and added:

'I must offer my sincerest and deepest apologies to the Native American people of the Southwestern United States.

'One of their children, a dead child from well over a century ago, was made a spectacle. Whoever you are, you deserve to be extended dignity and respect.'

The 'scientists' at the UFO conference previously said the images were of an alien found dead in New Mexico.

They were allegedly taken by Bernard Ray between 1947 and 1949 on a Kodachrome film and their discovery reignited theories that aliens visited Roswell in a secret army hangar dubbed Area 51.

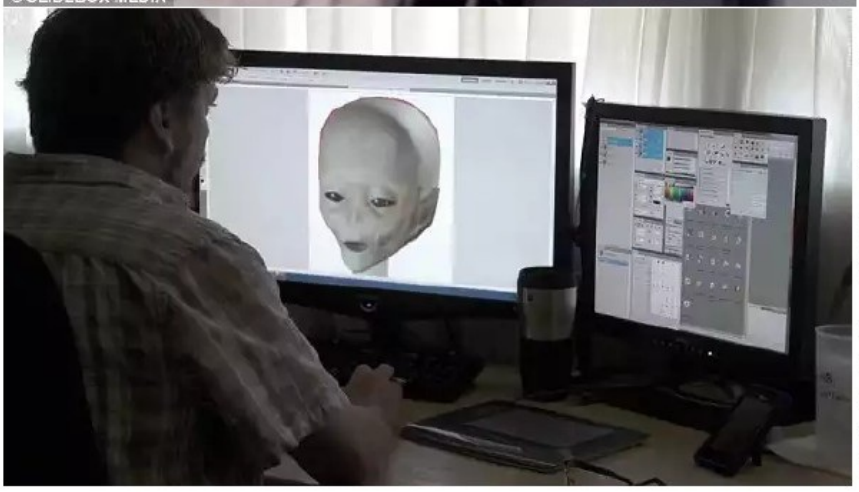
The discovery was announced earlier this month to an audience of 10,000 people, following what UFO specialists say was an extensive five-year study to determine the authenticity of the slides.

It is not know whether the organisers of the conference were aware that the images were fake.

Along with the announcement was the unveiling of a documentary, but the highly-anticpated slides themselves were still not revealed.

The original photos were found inside an attic in Arizona, in a box containing images of Bing Crosby, Clarke Gable and Dwight Eisenhower from before his term as president

Several UFO researchers noticed that in the documentary trailer researchers are seen looking at one of the slides.



A number of people have zoomed in on this slide, changing its angle and producing a blurred image of a human-looking figure.

The original photos were found inside an attic in Arizona, in a box containing images of Bing Crosby, Clarke Gable and Dwight Eisenhower from before his term as president.

At the time Jaime Maussan, a widely recognised Mexican UFO specialist, the images must be real because the sketch of the extra-terrestrial image did not exist at the time the photo was taken.

'(These photos) show the human race, beyond any doubt, that extra-terrestrial visits are a reality,' Maussan said.

'That is why the presentation of two slides, two transparencies, where a being with non-human features can be seen, is very important.

'These photos were dated by experts during a period, where the model of the archetype extraterrestrial we know today did not exist.

Many have compared the images to previous photos of mummies from the Smithsonian. Pictured is a Roman child mummy (bottom) with opening ringed compared to 'Roswell slide' (top)

Edgar Mitchell, an astronaut who was the sixth person to land on the moon, attended the event and said he believed the images were authentic.

However, many said the images are a publicity stunt as the unveiling event in Mexico cost $350 for entry.

Others have compared the images to previous photos of mummies from the Smithsonian

'There is already a considerable amount of cynicism and scepticism about these pictures,' Nigel Watson author of the UFO Investigations Manual told DailyMail.com.

It follows footage that emerged in February allegedly showing the body of an alien being handled by American soldiers during the 1940s.

New Zealand-based magazine, Uncensored, did a frame-by-frame analysis and said it proves 'there were aliens in Area 51'.

But Philip Mantle, the UFO expert who was involved with the release of the original Roswell films, said these latest images are nothing but 'utter b******'.

It has since became apparent that the footage was taken from the film Alien Autopsy starring Ant and Dec, released back in 2006.

Roswell, New Mexico sprang to international fame on July 8, 1947, when the local newspaper reported the capture of a 'flying saucer' by government officials in the town. The original Roswell hoax alien autopsy pictures, including this one, were unveiled in 1995

LarkyLark, Los Angeles, United States, about an hour ago

People are conditioned to believe in ridiculous things from the time they're children - Santa, gods, good luck charms, etc. No surprise these people are easily fooled as adults. Sad, really.

JoeCatsGroove, Wahoosville, United States, about 2 hours ago

"Is A Mummified Boy" - Well, yeah. Like....DUH!

haradin, surfers paradise, Australia, about 3 hours ago

If plans to make the top secret atom bomb leaked to the Soviets then how has this remained secret for all these years.Surely someone would have leaked the ' truth' as nothing like this can be sealed forever.Even more revealing is how hackers can extract commercial and military information and nothing about UFOs or aliens.Not unless there is nothing recorded and the authorities have learnt how to keep things air tight and sealed.which I doubt as humans arent that clever or perfect.

PortTabacco, Inland Empire, United States, about 4 hours ago

Read THE DAY AFTER ROSWELL by Col. Philip J. Corso. Thanks to the Roswell Alien craft and alien technology we have Lasers, accelerated particle-beam weapons, aircraft equipped with "Stealth" features. Thanks to the devices found aboard the Roswell craft,, and how they were the precursors for today's integrated circuit chips, fiber optics, and super tenacity fibers. The Roswell incident apparently did happen and the book details how frightened soldiers shot an alien that was trying to climb up an embankment to escape! According to what I read in this book. Chilling really!

Ami, Boston, United States, about 4 hours ago

Only the Top Brass know, not Cernols.

my2cents, Texas, United States, about 4 hours ago

Gosh ! And I used to think all this Roswell Alien nonsense was just a hoax. Hahahhahaha

usecommonsense, somewhere, United States, about 5 hours ago

Hahahaha

striker58, millersview, United States, about 5 hours ago

They are here and they are real.Just look at the white house they have no clue what's happening in are world.

gormenghastly, Caledon, Canada, about 5 hours ago

Almost right: They are here, they are real and they are IN the White House!

Nagual, Sydney, Australia, about 5 hours ago

I find it funny that some of the tinfoilers are still clinging to this nonsense. I hear the usual cries of "It's a cover up" "They are not telling us the whole truth" etc etc. Refuse to believe they have been "had"

uru, Houston, United States, about 6 hours ago

like I said the first time this popped up : " They made 3.5 million on this sh! t and - AND - they didn't even produce the 'slides' that backed up the poo poo ?? !! " ..... AH hahahahha ! ... THREE and ONE HALF million dollars ,,, People !! , look , for half that $350 I'll give you a way better time AND you can see the 'slides' ....

Alyssa, California, United States, about 6 hours ago

Looks human to me.

Roll Tide, Mercerville, United States, about 6 hours ago

Yes, you can see these people everyday walking in your local Mall..

Ken Mist, Paris, about 6 hours ago

Looking at the orietation it's the words that have been photoshopped on to it- why isnt everything else as clear? Why not clean up the whole image?

Alexandra, New York USA, about 5 hours ago

They probably did and this just happens to be the one photograph the DM chose to publish. Duh.

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called Kodachrome was criticised for holding the event on the 20th anniversary of a previous Roswell hoax in

1995 when now infamous images purporting to be a secret 1940s military alien autopsy emerged.

Critics said this pointed to Dew being involved in another elaborate hoax.

But Dew insists he investigated the possibility of the 'alien' being a child mummy and ruled it out.

He told UFO website Open Minds: "To me it is obviously not the same thing, but maybe that's just me."

The mummy image that people feel is most similar has a hole in its side. People have pointed out a dark spot on the low resolution blown up slide that they believe confirms it is the same body.

However, Dew says, "There is no hole on the side of our body."

Dew says the speculation does not frustrate him, but 'inspires him' and he will continue to research the slides and get more expert opinion.

The Roswell story, of US authorities keeping the discovery of the alien a secret from the public, has long been regarded as the world's biggest alien mystery, since it first broke in the 1940s.

YouTube

13 Comments

firestormNEW8 hours ago
They cant tell you that there are aliens folks because that would out themselves - they've been running this planet (in the main) for decades. The propaganda mind control system is now too powerful - you are all brainwashed into oblivion

Robin123NEW19 hours ago
Why is there no mention of his 6 fingers ?

Bassil brushNEW1 day ago
Roswell is just as fake as the moon landings folks and here is proof of that.
America claims that the crashed alien spaceship was reversed engineered, and the military

claim they made contact with aliens who gave America advanced technology. If that is the case why didn't they show America how to make a manned moon lander to land on the moon, something else they had to fake. Don't believe me? Plot into youtube; Morpheus lander, Take a look at their technology today.A lander capable of landing on the moon and returning needs to make a VTOL of around about 25 miles (40,000 meters) OK. NASA Morpheus managed just 800 feet last year, Armadillo managed 800 meters, and the best to date prior to armadillo was The Mighty Grasshopper, 744 meters in September 2013. None anywhere near the 40,000 meters required. At this very moment, google is offering a 30 million dollar prize to any company in the world that can make them a small moon lander capable of making a soft landing and take photos of the moon's surface. SO FAR, OUT OF THE 15 DIFFERENT COMPANIES TAKING PART WORLD WIDE NOT ONE HAS SUCCEEDED. They have all been granted another 2 years grace. Watch. FAKE MOON LANDING VOL 14 BUSTED AT LAST and you will see a flamingo on the moon, ASTRONAUTS HAND CHOPPED OFF AND REPLACED WITH OPPOSITE HANDS, folks HA HA HA

NotSmokingGunNEW1 day ago

Magnacarta...thanks for all your helpful posts. Yes, the terms "UFO", "contactee", "aliens", etc. have all been beaten into the ground so much they have become nearly meaningless. I read where a researcher called an ET a "creature" which was pretty insulting. What many of us have experienced over the years is an interaction with intelligences that are far beyond us in what they can do. I'm convinced that there is indeed going to be a planetary disclosure but they are cleverly going to do it by bypassing governments and go straight to people who are the first ones who are willing to experience it.

As far as the Turkish footage I looked at that in depth and it is highly compelling.
MagnacartaNEW1 day ago
Agree 100% and these contactees will be spiritual mediums and those associated with the truth movement. Kind regards.
NotSmokingGunNEW1 day ago
Yep and I've checked with a lot of people and they would welcome an honest, non threatening disclosure that is directly focused on them on their level that they can handle and not this typical money making fake stuff like the Roswell slides presentation.
Bassil brushNEW1 day ago
If you want proof of Alien existing try this test. Plot into google; Basement Carvings Israel. What you have here is carvings in the floor that have been baffling all the experts for years, nobody can make head or tail of them. Soon to be added to my book the true explanation, I am the only person in the world who can decipher them.Have a go, see if you can tell us what they mean.
NotSmokingGunNEW1 day ago
There are many reasons why this is a mummy:

1) Note the hardwood plank flooring that would be more a floor in a museum than floor found in a military building.

2) There is not only a placard placed against the body's leg but also one behind that is attached to the glass which would be consistent with a museum display.

3) Note there is what looks like rope on the glass behind the body with a very small placard likely describing what it was and how it was used in the mummifying process.

4) If this was a real ET it would be on a table of sorts and not a glass display.

5) The oddest one of all is if you look behind the body's head you will see something that clearly has fur on it. If you note the way the glass table is shaped, this object is clearly ON the table since it also does not extend down to the floor. Likely this is either a stuffed animal or some sort of fur clothing that might have been applicable for the time period this mummy was alive. I'm amazed no one has said anything about this obvious anomaly.

6) The body still appears to have some of the mummification wrap around it's neck and left leg.

7) The hand clearly has 4 fingers, has a normal looking ribcage, teeth in mouth, eyelids, etc.

This obvious display for VIEWING purposes would not be consistent with a military coverup of alien bodies that if photographed would be in a more mundane setting on a solid table in a military or medical setting.

MagnacartaNEW1 day ago

The slide may indeed be a mummified human corpse but that does not mean that the Roswell Incident didn't involve the downing of an extraterrestrial craft and the retrieval of dead extraterrestrials including one that was still alive.
In fact, the witness testimony is solid and points to this happening.

If people want irrefutable evidence that extraterrestrials are a reality then I suggest they watch the hearings that took place in front of US Congress members in Washington on April 29, 2013. Forget about the Roswell Incident because it has been debunked, ridiculed and bombed with misinformation (witness testimony aside).

MagnacartaNEW1 day ago

This was the "Citizen Hearing on Disclosure".

Again if you do not have the time to read and research the subject in depth please also watch the 4 hour witness DVD introduced by Dr Stephen Greer which includes witness testimony from pilots, radar operators, military personnel etc.

NotSmokingGunNEW1 day ago

I'm quite aware of the Citizen Hearings which were quite solid. I've had long phone conversations with one of the presenters in these hearings and that person clued me in to details of disclosure in other countries especially south of the US border where their governments are WAY ahead of us with citizen disclosure. I'm a long time "experiencer" so don't need to be convinced of the veracity of the phenomenon.

NotSmokingGunNEW1 day ago

Magnacarta...yes, you are totally right. I would go farther and consider this release last night to possibly be deliberate disinformation used to ridicule real experiences and evidence. I've had enough personal experience to know the phenomenon is quite real and know many others who have had genuine experiences as well.

MagnacartaNEW1 day ago

Thank you for your reply. I have studied this subject for 30 years and I have seen enough evidence to conclude that that extraterrestrials are a reality and that the cover-up has been immense for the main reason of keeping control over humanity.

I don't know what your level of knowledge is of this subject but the term 'UFO' is now redundant and modern investigators do not use this term much. Also the term 'biological entities' is now used instead of extraterrestrials although I think this is insulting to highly evolved, advanced and spiritual beings.

Indeed the term 'Consciousness' is the KEY to understanding who and what we are dealing with because the Universe is in fact MULTIDIMENSIONAL and this is how many of these beings travel almost instantaneously from point A to B in craft that are also 'Conscious' too!

It may be difficult for many people to come to terms with this incredible subject but I urge people to study and understand both the reality of Spirituality and the UFO subject - they are inseparable. And yes crop formations are also a reality which the intelligence community have tried to debunk and ridicule as well as cattle mutilation.

The best piece of UFO footage in my view to date is the Turkish footage of 2007, a truly remarkable piece of evidence.

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He also dismissed claims by event organisers that the skull in the 'Roswell slides' is alien-like with large forehead and eyes.

He added: "The above link also has those touting this image as an alien 'analyzing' the shape of the eye sockets. Honestly, big deal. Big eye sockets in skulls are familiar like with these."

Heiser then uploaded pictures from a medical website of reproduction child skulls with similar features.

Twitter users Floren Cabrera and Cistian Contini also posted comments suggesting the 'slides' were Egyptian child mummies, with examples provided.

it is suggested the 'slides' show the remains of an alien found dead by US authorities at a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

It is alleged the grainy pictures were found in a collection of 40 colour slides in the attic of a well-connected American couple when their property in Midland, Texas, was being cleared before sale.

YouTube•SLIDEBOXMEDIA

I thought immediately it was a child mummy. It's in some sort of display case. Funny how they both have the tell-tale body cavity opening.

Michael Heiser, a scholar in biblical studies and the ancient near east

A slick movie-style documentary trailer accompanied the release of the pictures, suggesting to be the story of an investigation by a 'sports journalist' Adam Dew after they came into his possession.

JAN•Flickr

ADAMDEW

Dew, who revealed the slides and made a documentary about them

ROSWELL: new 'smoking gun alien picture' is 'blurred photo of child mummy' say sceptics

express.co.uk

NEWLY released images claiming to be photographs of an alien which crash-landed near Roswell in 1947 were today dismissed as a hoax using child mummies, by some UFO experts.

By Jon Austin
PUBLISHED: 17:49, Wed, May 6, 2015 | UPDATED: 18:59, Thu, May 7, 2015

YouTube•MICHAELHEISER

The pictures called the Roswell Slides, released in New Mexico yesterday at the 'Be Witness' conference held near the site of the Roswell mysterious incident, were billed as

"smoking gun" evidence for a UFO having crashed there by event organisers.

But UFO hunters, scientists and historians took to social media to slam them as another big hoax.

SLIDEBOXMEDIA•YouTube

Many claim the pictures are deliberately blurry pictures of a Roman or Egyptian child mummy and the 'alien' appears to be in a museum display case and even has a 'tell-tale'

body cavity opening, used to remove dead children's organs before mummification.

Michael Heiser, a scholar in biblical studies and the ancient near east, today wrote on his blog: "I've seen the Kodachrome slide. I thought immediately it was a child

mummy. It's in some sort of display case. I've shown the photo to several Egyptologists. They said the same thing. You can see why when you juxtapose the 'alien' photo with a child mummy photograph. Funny how they both have the tell-tale body cavity opening."

Rum runners and whisky cargoes: Toronto during Prohibition was anything but dry | Toronto Star

thestar.com

Rum runners and whisky cargoes: Toronto during Prohibition was anything but dry

The whisky continued to flow after Ontario's Temperance Act of 1916. And sometimes so did the blood.

City of Toronto Archives Bootleggers launch at Ashbridge's Bay in 1923.

By: Valerie HauchNews reporter,Published on Sun May 03 2015

"That Toronto's waterfront is used by rum runners at nighttime to transfer their whisky cargoes is a well-known fact. But to catch the lawbreakers is another thing. The whisky men know when to come and go – when Toronto has gone to bed and the waterfront is under a blanket of darkness."

–Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 6, 1923

One doesn't think of quiet Ashbridge's Bay as the gateway for a bloody showdown with Toronto police and bootleggers. But on a moonless night in October 1923 — when Prohibition against "demon rum" and "wicked whisky" ruled the day in Ontario – that's exactly what happened.

Shocked Torontonians read all about it in the Oct. 6 afternoon edition of the Toronto Daily Star. A "rum schooner" – the Hattie C – had slipped into the bay around midnight off Leslie St. In these days the spit did not exist. The boat's illicit cargo – 2,554 whisky bottles worth more than $20,000 – was being offloaded onto trucks. At the scene was Hamilton-based mobster Rocco Perri.

Police at Pape Ave. station received an anonymous tipoff just after midnight, the Star reported, and rushed to the scene. Police later testified at a coroner's inquest that they shouted to the men in the boat to put their hands up and turn off the engines. When they didn't, the officers opened fire, killing one man, John Gogo, 24, and wounding another.

The other men were charged with possession of alcohol in a public place. The Ontario Temperance Act of 1916, a provincial statute, banned the sale, distribution and public consumption and possession of alcohol.

At the inquest, Perri claimed he was an employee of the Superior Macaroni Company and just happened to be in the area that night. When he saw that whisky was being unloaded Perri claimed he was going to leave but police showed up.

Canada's first air express mail delivery,which arrived at the Leaside Aerodrome in June 1918, also included some Mull Scotch loaded in Montreal.

Eventually, the owner of the boat, Sydney Gogo, whose son had died that night, and another man at the scene were convicted and fined. Charges against Perri and the others were dropped.

But that wasn't the end of it. The coroner's inquest took issue with the four policemen shooting at the unarmed men, who were in breach of a provincial statute, not a criminal code offence. The inquest found this was an unauthorized use of their firearms. The four officers were later charged with manslaughter but after two trials and two hung juries, the charges were dropped.

An 1863 engraving of the Gooderham and Worts Distillery by D.D. Robertson. The brewer converted its facilities to help produce explosives during WWI, but in 1923 got permision to export whisky before it had been aged the two years required by law.

In a way, the outcome of the trials reflected the ambiguity of the public toward Prohibition.

Some believed the Temperance Act was unfair because people with money could always get alcohol.

Certainly, many ordinary people who were otherwise law-abiding did not support Prohibition.

One would have to assume that British Royal Flying Corps. Capt. Bryan Peck and Corp. E.W. Mathers may have been among the dissenters. They were to make Canada's first airmail delivery – a duffel bag with more than 100 pieces of mail from Montreal to a military airfield in Leaside on June 23, 1918.

But author Frank Ellis, in his 1954 book Canada's Flying Heritage, says in addition to takeoff being delayed a day by bad weather, Peck had loaded his plane with bottles of Mull Scotch for a friend's wedding in Toronto. The extra weight took a toll and the plane had to fly low and stop for refuelling in Kingston and Deseronto before landing in Leaside on June 24 at almost 5 p.m., delivering the mail a day past the postal stamp date.

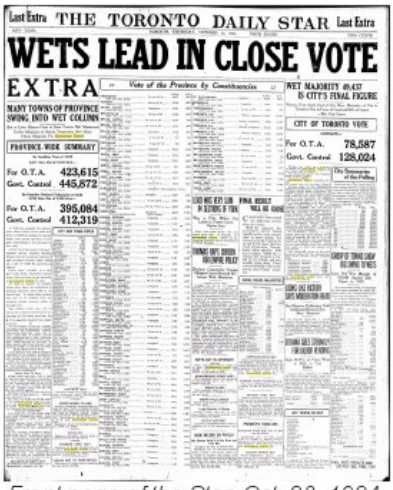
Apparently authorities were not aware of the extra cargo.

There were a few legal loopholes by which Torontonians could obtain liquor during Prohibition. Wine could still be bought and used for religious purposes. And doctors were allowed to write prescriptions for "medicinal" alcohol, which could be filled at pharmacies.

The Flatiron building at the corners of Church, Front and Wellington was built in 1892 and used by the Gooderham family of Gooderham & Worts. The brewing company got in trouble for selling whisky to rum runners during Prohibition.

According to the 1995 book, Whiskey and Ice, The Saga of Ben Kerr, Canada's Most Daring Rumrunner, by C.W. Hunt, writing prescriptions for liquor was so profitable in the province "that it came to constitute the largest part of some doctors' practices."

And it was still legal to manufacture alcohol and export it – that came under federal jurisdiction and Ottawa benefited from the taxes.


Last Extra THE TORONTO DAILY STAR Last Extra

WETS LEAD IN CLOSE VOTE

EXTRA

Vote of the Province by Constituencies

MANY TOWNS OF PROVINCE SWING INTO WET COLUMN

PROVINCE WIDE SUMMARY

For O.T.A. 423,615
Govt. Control 445,872

For O.T.A. 395,084
Govt. Control 412,319

WET MAJORITY 49,437 IS CITY'S FINAL FIGURE

CITY OF TORONTO VOTE

For O.T.A. 78,587
Govt. Control 128,024

Front page of the Star, Oct. 23, 1924. Although the "Wets" were leading at presstime, the final results of a referendum that day showed Ontarians narrowly voted to keep the Ontario Temperance Act. The act had banned the sale of alcohol since 1916. It proved a Pyrrhic victory.

Toronto's Gooderham & Worts distillery had converted its facilities to producing acetone for explosives during the First World War and was in decline at the start of Prohibition. It got a boost when it was sold to Canadian businessman Harry Hatch in 1923 for $1.5 million.

Hatch managed to convince the federal government to let him export whisky before it had been aged the two years required by law.

No doubt, Gooderham and Worts' bootlegger and rum-runner clients, such as Rocco Perri and Ben Kerr, were pleased.

By 1924, Perri was no longer the shy "macaroni" man. His ego had ballooned and he granted a sensational interview at his Hamilton mansion to Toronto Star reporter, Dave Rogers, in which he admitted to being a bootlegger. Indeed, in the front-page story of Nov. 19, 1924, Perri's wife Bessie Starkman, who was also present, was quoted as calling Rocco "king of the bootleggers."

Perri admitted outright he was a bootlegger. “I am not ashamed to admit it,” he told Rogers. “And a bootlegger I shall remain.”

The two-cent Star edition sold out quickly and there were reports some people paid $2 for a copy. Despite his admissions, Perri could not be charged with selling alcohol without evidence.

Rocco Perri, left, a.k.a. the "king of the bootleggers," with an RCMP constable around 1939. Perri served five months in jail for perjury before a royal commission into bootlegging and smuggling

After a provincial referendum in 1924, which produced only a slight majority in favour of the Ontario Temperance Act, the government started moving towards liberalization.

Ontario Premier Howard Ferguson started to relax regulations on the sale of beer, allowing a brew with maximum alcohol content of 4.4 per cent. The brew was laughingly dubbed “Fergie’s Foam” because its inebriation properties were flimsy.

“That stuff? It’s just suds, boy, just suds. You’d have to get drowned in it to get any effects,” commented one Toronto man in a Star story on May 25, 1925.

Perri’s words in the sensational Star story would later come back to haunt him. He was compelled to testify in 1927 at a Royal Commission on Customs and Excise inquiry, focusing on bootlegging and smuggling and also at a hearing on tax evasion charges levelled against Gooderham and Worts the same year.

Ironically, Perri’s commission testimony came just after the official end of Prohibition on March 30, 1927.

The whisky export business during Prohibition had been good for Toronto distiller Gooderham & Worts, even though much of it ended up in the U.S., where alcohol was also forbidden.

Prohibition in Ontario began in 1916 but began to erode

Perri told the commission he only agreed to an interview with the Toronto Star because the reporter was bugging him. He denied being a bootlegger but could not explain why he signed off on a proof of the story the Star had given him before it was printed.

Later in the year, at a Gooderham & Worts tax evasion hearing, Perri admitted he’d bought whisky from the distiller from 1924 to 1927. Gooderham and Worts was convicted of tax evasion in 1928 and had to pay a fine of $439,744.

after a tight referendum in 1924.

Perri and Starkman were charged with perjury after their royal commission testimony but in a plea bargain, the charges were dropped against Starkman. Perri served a five-month sentence and was released in September 1928.

Bessie Starkman was gunned down in her Hamilton garage, on Aug. 13, 1930, a slaying that remains unsolved. In 1944, Rocco Perri disappeared. The “king of the bootleggers’’ was last seen alive April 23.

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Russia is trying to ban porn using a 100-year-old law
Oliver Wheaton - HeadshotOliver Wheaton for Metro.co.ukTuesday 14 Apr 2015 2:34 pm
http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/14/russia-is-trying-to-ban-porn-using-a-100-year-old-law-5149818/

Russia isn't exactly known for it's liberal stance on, well, anything recently, and it seems pornography is the next thing to feel Putin's iron fist fall upon it.

The Russian internet watchdog Roskomnadzor announced yesterday they plan to block 136 porn sites following a court ruling that cited international laws which came into force in 1920 and 1923.

These laws (which were made when the last Tsar and his family were still alive) focus on the distribution of obscene materials, according the The Moscow Times.

A Roskomnadzor spokesperson confirmed both domestic and international sites would be blocked in carrying out the court order, however she wouldn't name any sites individually.

MORE: Will Russian president Vladimir Putin rise to Vin Diesel's challenge and take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge?

MORE: Is this where Putin has been for the past ten days?

'This is the first time that a single decision by a court contains a requirement to restrict access to such a large number of pornography-orientated websites. Total traffic to these sites is in the millions of visits,' Roskomnadzor's top spokesman, Vadim Ampelonsky, told Russian paper Izvestia.

Shocking though it may be, it is only another step in Russian state's apparent attack on internet freedom.

Russia recently tried to ban memes, to which the world responded accordingly.

Russia Orders US: Tell The World About Aliens, Or We Will goingviralposts.biz

A stunning Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) report on Prime Minister Medvedev's agenda at the World Economic Forum (WEF) this week states that Russia will warn President Obama that the "time has come" for the world to know the truth about aliens, and if the United States won't participate in the announcement, the Kremlin will do so on its own.

What incredible times we are living in. a Ministry of Foreign Affairs report done on Prime Minister Medvedev's Agenda for the WEF (World Economic Forum) happening this week confirms what some of us suspect for years – our governments are lying to us about their Knowledge of Extraterrestrial Life. in the report, russians are due to call out in advocasy of sharing the "truth about aliens" with the world, or else. it seems they are serious about it in the Kremlin.

Operating from Cologny, Geneva, the WEF is a non-profit foundation, which describes itself as an independent international organisation pledged to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other society leaders to influence global, regional and industry agendas for a better future.

Best known for it's Extravagant annual meetings at Davos, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland, The WEF is sometimes criticised for turning to the rich and powerful as part of some Elitist agenda which is shared among the often Hidden-from-the-public-eye Participents. each meeting has about 2,500 of those, including, but not exclusive to, business leaders, international political leaders, selected intellectuals and the journalists selected to appriciate just how rich everyone there are. this in order to discuss the calamities the world is going through, including health and environment and supposedly the future of our planet as we know it.

The 2013 convention has made note in its executive summary of the possible X-factors in the Nature category in the future, under the "discovery of alien life" they added that: "Proof of life elsewhere in the universe could have profound psychological implications for human belief systems." no shit. i started to eat my fingernails as soon as iread about this.More important is the one look we had into Medvedev's connection to the secrets of Aliens, beck on December 7th, 2012, when he went on a public interview. in the interview, the Prime Minister has made some clearly nit for broadcast remarks, without realising that his Mic was still on. Oops. after that, he was asked by oneof the reporters if "the president is handed secret files on aliens when he receives the briefcase needed to activate Russia's nuclear arsenal," to this he replied:"Along with the briefcase with nuclear codes, the president of the country is given a special 'top secret' folder. This folder in its entirety contains information about aliens who visited our planet… Along with this, you are given a report of the absolutely secret special service that exercises control over aliens on the territory of our country… More detailed information on this topic you can get from a well-known movie called Men In Black… I will not tell you how many of them are among us because it may cause panic." bear with me, it's not the pathetic joke you think this is.In referncing Men in Black, the 97′ Flick starring will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as two Badass government Agents from an agency that does not exist, Medvedev's response has been deemed Joke by the western media. but maybe it there is another options. people in the know has said that the PM referenced another film entirely, a russian Documentary with the same name, which details some hush hush anomalies and other alien Conspiracy theory, or so we thought. this miscommunication perhaps helped push

this esoteric issue out of our minds, but then other signs, more alarming may have surfaced.

in November 2009 the Vatican, which is supposed to be very formal and traditional place – announced it was “preparing for extraterrestrial disclosure”. what does that means? are you getting nervous? the western new outlets aren’t, one report concerning Medvedev’s potential show of hands regarding Life in the Universe and what is being hidden from us by our goverments, was titled: “Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev makes a crack about aliens, and conspiracists promptly lose their minds.”

so, any reason to freak out right now, you ask me. oh yes. you should be worried. because former US government official, Pentagon consultant Timothy Good, also author of “Above Top Secret: The Worldwide U.F.O. Cover-Up,” stated in February 2012 that Ex-President Dwight Eisenhower had three secret encounters with aliens who seemed ‘Nordic’ and wherein a ‘Pact’ was signed to keep their agenda on Earth secret.

it seems that our world is becoming crazier by the minute, scientists, astronauts and YouTube users report increasingly strange happenings on the moon, While the European Space agency reporting their discovery of a 1,000 ancient river on Mars, and UK and Sri Lanka scientists saying they now have “rock solid proof of alien life” after finding fossilised algae inside meteorite. with our capabilities now, including our recent landing on moving meteor and us starting to turn our collective heads towards commercial space flight, i’d say revelation of this magnitude from our governments would have quite the impact. maybe that we’ll find that the theories are all correct, maybe none of them are, and maybe, just maybe, we’ll have a confirmation that “we are not alone in the universe.”

will Medvedev be able to convince the Obama regime to share what we have on UFO’s at the WEF this week? is ther something to share? we don’t know, but we are scared. What we do knw is that any shrivel of information regarding this said on record by any government official, ours or the Russian’s, will be a HUGE deal and perhaps change our perspective on history, on the future, and who knows what else.

5 Responses

1. gerard 1 day ago

   Does the author not have at the very least a grammer/spell check feature on whatever device this story was written? My 4th grader has better writing skills than this!

2. DJ 1 day ago

   If you want people to take this article seriously I would suggest trying to proof read your material. I was so annoyed with the misspellings that I felt the need to comment. Whoever wrote this needs to stop writing half assed articles.

3. Delaina13 hours ago

   This was one of the most poorly written articles I’ve ever read. Have you not heard of proofreading? You didn’t capitalize your sentences, there were spelling and

grammatical errors throughout the entire piece, and half the time, you made absolutely zero sense. You didn't use proper quotation, and you let your personal opinion permeate the gist of the article. I was so looking forward to this read, but halfway through, I just couldn't stand it anymore. Please take a few English courses before returning to journalism.

4. LookyLou 7 hours ago

Hard to take an article seriously when there's typos, misspellings, bad grammar, and inconsistent capitalization.

5. Ted Eng 6 hours ago

I think this story is as much as two years old. Since there have been no revelations in that time, confidence is low that one is forthcoming.

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Russian Submarine Blamed For Snagging Trawler

The Karen was suddenly dragged backwards when a submarine apparently became tangled in its nets in the Irish Sea.

12:59, UK, Thursday 16 April 2015

1.

2. The gallows support on the Karen was buckled it was dragged backwards, apparently by a submarine

3. The Karen was lucky to still be afloat as it returned to port in Ardglass, the crew said

4.
5.
6.

A fishing trawler that was dragged backwards off the coast of Northern Ireland may have caught a Russian submarine in a net, fishermen have said.

The Karen was badly damaged when it was suddenly pulled along at 10 knots (nearly 12mph) and only managed to break free when it released the wires connecting the net to the boat.

Skipper Paul Murphy told **Down News** he was almost knocked off his feet when the trawler lurched backwards.

"One of the gallows which holds the wire rope mounted to the deck was severely bucked with the force," he said.

"It really was a close call. The incident only lasted about just over five seconds but it was very scary. The submarine did not come up to the surface after we tangled with it."

1. A Tu-95 Bear bomber

2.
3.

4. Russian Tupolev Tu-22M during a military exercise

5.
6.

7. A Russian Tupolev Tu-95 (Bear) bomber refuels from an Ilyushin Il-78 during an exercise

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment on whether there were manouevres in the area, about 18 miles from Ardglass, but a fishermen's group said Royal Navy vessels were meant to stop and check on the crew of the other vessel in such a collision.

"It is possible that it was a Russian submarine," Dick James, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation, said. "It was a submarine, it had to be, it could not have been anything else."

However, Sky's defence correspondent Alistair Bunkall: "Whilst it isn't unthinkable, or even unprecedented, that a submarine might sail into a fishing net, I'm reliably told that no British or Russian submarines were in those waters at the time.

"Submarines give off a signature that can be tracked by magnetic anomaly detectors, essentially a network of sonar buoys, aircraft or undersea cables that pick up the boats movements.

"Submarines also give off wake turbulence which is another way of tracking them. And never underestimate US intelligence capabilities – they are able to detect when a Russian sub leaves its base and let allies know so it can be tracked."

Britain is hosting Exercise Joint Warrior - involving about 50 vessels, dozens of aircraft and

thousands of troops from the UK, NATO and allies - in Scotland.

The NATO manouevres are held every six months, but those in Lossiemouth are the largest ever carried out.

"There has been Russian activity. There have been Allied exercises going on, the Russians have been taking an interest in it," Mr James said.

"If it was Allied it should have been following an agreed protocol where this should not have happened.

"Our defence forces are not up to much if a rogue submarine of unidentified nationality is tearing around the Irish Sea."

Earlier this week, **RAF Typhoon jets were scrambled** after Russian aircraft were seen close to UK airspace.

Russian naval vessels have also been passing through the English Channel, reportedly on their way to anti-aircraft exercises in the Atlantic.

Sinn Fein Northern Ireland Assembly member Chris Hazzard said fishermen in the port of Ardglass wanted answers from the MoD.

"The skipper and his crew on the Karen, and indeed all of the local fleet deserve to know the truth about what happened," he said.

"Whether this is a British vessel attached to the hugely controversial Trident system or a NATO submarine in training - our local fishermen deserve justice."

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Le Parisien, Paris

WENN

"It is just not real to walk yourself several hours after birth and wave to the public in white dress.

"If you ever gave birth, try to recall yourself in three or four hours later.

"Even if the birth was easy, women just want to sleep and sleep for several hours. This is a fairy tale of a family of show offs."

In comments written by readers, they alleged that it was "impossible for Kate to look so radiant".

"She did not give birth, I am sure," said one.

"There is no special maternal look in her eyes - this natural thing is not visible. Look at Diana. This Kate is just an actress from Buckingham Palace theatre. She never gave birth!.

Another said: "I thought this too - that the baby is at least 7-10 days old.

"First of all, she is too big for a newborn, and secondly, the face is smooth and pale."

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Russians claim royal baby birth was a FAKE 'because Kate looked too beautiful'

mirror.co.uk

- 17:31, 3 May 2015
- By John Shammas

The ridiculous claims were made by readers of the pro-Kremlin newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda

Getty / Wikimedia Commons

Bizarre: A pro-kremlin newspaper has carried allegations about the new royal baby

Kate Middleton looked too beautiful to have just given birth when she emerged from the Lindo Wing yesterday, according to a bizarre conspiracy theory that has emerged in Russia.

Pro-Kremlin newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda carried the claims which were made by various Russian women.

They said that it was "impossible" for the Duchess of Cambridge to look so good immediately after the birth, also questioning whether the baby was in fact born days before.

Follow all the latest royal baby news in our live blog.

One woman said: "If she really gave birth naturally, it was surely some days ago.

Another added: "She gave birth three days ago. They reported it only now. Look at the baby - she does not look like a newborn at all.

"She is at least three days old. There is nothing which would help a woman, even if she gave birth with the help of best doctors, stand up five hours after giving birth - and leave the clinic on her feet."

The claims became even more ridiculous when one woman said that Kate Middleton had not even given birth to the new princess herself.

She said: "It was a surrogate mother who gave birth but not her. Kate must have been wearing a fake belly showing to the people that she was pregnant.

Radiant: Kate Middleton outside the Lindo Wing yesterday

Salem loudspeaker ban seeks to balance keeping the peace vs. free speech

salemnews.com

Salem loudspeaker ban seeks to balance keeping the peace vs. free speech

Keeping the peace vs. free speech

Keeping the peace vs. free speech

COURTESY PHOTO/@we_are_salem

A street performer known to locals as Vampire Steve mocks a preacher on Salem's Essex Street Pedestrian Mall last September.

Posted: Monday, April 6, 2015 10:20 pm | *Updated: 10:18 am, Tue Apr 7, 2015.*

Salem loudspeaker ban seeks to balance keeping the peace vs. free speech By John Castelluccio Staff Writer Salem News

SALEM — City officials may place a ban on loudspeakers and other amplification devices used by street preachers, performers and tour guides along Essex Street during the height of Salem's busy fall tourist season.

The discussion will get underway Tuesday night — six months before Halloween takes over the Witch City — with the City Council subcommittee on Public Health, Safety and the Environment.

Committee chairman David Eppley, a lawyer, said there was a lot of "impassioned" input from people last year that led to a temporary ban. Now he wants to have a healthy discussion of what worked and what didn't. His goal is to craft a permanent solution before October, after deciding whether one is even necessary.

"It's not about the message; it's about the volume," said Eppley. "We're Salem, Massachusetts, and we respect the First Amendment."

A debate about amplification, proselytizing and noise disturbances in the downtown has roiled for years. It boiled over last fall after an incident was captured on video between a shouting street preacher and a silent but aggressively circling male performer dressed as Nosferatu, the vampire.

The YouTube video was viewed thousands of times and sparked renewed debate among residents, tourists, businesses and city officials.

Mayor Kim Driscoll, after investigating if the city could impose noise restrictions for parts of the downtown, proposed a temporary order that the council passed to prohibit the use of bullhorns and the like from 2 to 6 p.m. on weekends in October along the Pedestrian Mall on

Essex Street.

The mall is a brick-paved stretch between the Peabody Essex Museum and Washington Street where thousands of tourists stroll by on tours or check out dozens of boutique shops. They're also entertained by a diverse assemblage of street performers, who are joined by itinerant preachers who come to Salem with thundering messages of repentance.

The police department regularly receives numerous noise complaints from residents during September and October. While a certain percentage of the public was happy with the temporary ban, tour guides were not.

The owners at Salem Historical Tours and Crow Haven Corner told the Salem News in previous interviews they relied on loudspeakers to clearly communicate with groups of up to 50 customers at times, competing with the din of ambient noise on the street.

"In October, a little leniency would be appreciated," said Laurie "Lorelei" Stathopoulos at Crow Haven Corner on Monday. Her shop offers a Witch Walk to tourists. She plans to attend Tuesday's meeting and ask if tour guides can get an exception from any possible ban. "It's all about compromising."

When she opened her shop next door to a loud bar, she was told to just tolerate it, Stathopoulos said. To some extent, people have to take the same attitude toward "religious fanatics," she said, adding that if the preachers can't take their message to the street, she fears they may flood inside hers and other shops, disturbing customers and employees.

Eppley stressed Monday he hasn't made up his mind about enacting a permanent ordinance.

Businesses "definitely felt some negative impacts from last year's ban. What we have to do now is essentially balance that with the public need for an amplification ban," Eppley said. And, he said, the debate begs the question: "Is there a need?"

One of the city officials asked to weigh in on the subject Tuesday is Police Chief Mary Butler.

Butler said in an interview Monday the temporary ban did have an effect and agrees it's a delicate balancing act between protecting the peace and tranquility of residents with people's rights to free speech.

She said a feasible solution might avoid designated spaces or times and instead keep tour guides, preachers and others on the move. Butler plans to suggest possibly only allowing the speakers to stay in one spot for a couple of hours and then move along so many yards down the street, and so on.

There are existing city ordinances that prohibit use of loudspeakers or public address systems between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., she said, but that doesn't do much for residents home on the weekend who have to listen to loud shouting for four to five hours straight in the middle of the day.

Eppley said he anticipates a good turnout for Tuesday's meeting, which will be held in the

upstairs council chamber at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

You can reach John Castelluccio at 978-338-2527, jcastelluccio@salemnews.com or via Twitter at @SNjcastelluccio.

Posted in Local news on *Monday, April 6, 2015 10:20 pm. Updated: 10:18 am.*

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Scholars are troubled by legal battle over Goebbels's diaries | InsideHigherEd

insidehighered.com

Royalties for Nazi Writings

April 30, 2015

By

Matthew Reisz for Times Higher Education

Historians have pointed to the dire implications for research of the royalties claim being brought by the heirs of Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, against the publisher Random House Germany.

The claim concerns extracts from diaries quoted in the biography *Goebbels* by Peter Longerich, professor of modern German history at Royal Holloway, University of London. The English edition is due to be published next month.

The lawyer acting for the Goebbels estate, Cordula Schacht -- the daughter of Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's minister of economics, who was acquitted at Nuremberg -- is seeking just over €6,300 ($6,925) for the material quoted. The Higher Regional Court of Munich will pass judgment in July.

Many historians have hitherto assumed that no such claims would be made. It had never occurred to Saul Friedländer, emeritus professor of history at the University of California at Los Angeles -- and one of the leading authorities on the Holocaust -- to "ask for an authorization from the Goebbels estate to quote from his diaries."

Dan Stone, professor of modern history at Royal Holloway, said that he had "ordinarily simply assume[d] that published works and papers of Nazis are citable without any copyright issues. I regularly cite works by Nazi race theorists, some better known than others, in my work, and I do so on the assumption that there are no copyright issues."

All this may now be set to change. Much of the legal dispute has focused on the technical question of whether Goebbels's diaries -- like all the papers of Hitler and Stalin, for example -- are now owned by the state and so can be freely quoted. Yet many also point to ethical issues about payments to relations of leading Nazis and the likely impact on serious biographical and historical research, particularly if the family demands copy approval of a text in return for giving permission to quote.

A Lacuna in German History

"Historians will be reluctant to cite Nazis' writings if doing so means being obliged to reward their heirs financially," suggested Stone. "The consequences of not citing them, however, are obvious: a partial and incomplete analysis of the past."

That point was echoed by David Cesarani, research chair in history at Royal Holloway. "There is no question that the heirs and estates of Nazis who left published works or unpublished writings -- such as diaries, letters, prison statements -- could exert a chilling effect on serious scholarship into the period, and this trend must be fought vigorously. In some ways, the question is less about copyright than it is about the motives for enforcing it," he added.

"If the owners of copyright want acknowledgment or token payment, that is fair enough. If they want fees that are then paid to a good cause, that is irksome but reasonable. However, if they want to profit personally from the writings of Nazi ancestors, criminals, and/or to control the extent of usage, that is unacceptable and verges on the obscene."

Robert Gellately, Earl Ray Beck Professor of History at Florida State University, who has written extensively about both the Nazi and Soviet eras, noted that copyright issues were "the bane of the historian's existence."

"Russia has renewed the copyright of certain materials such as the Marx-Engels, Lenin and Stalin collected works. At least Lenin's and Stalin's works are regarded as the property of the Russian state. As of today, no Stalin heir has come forward to claim proprietary rights. But stay tuned!" he said.

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School tour of South Dakota bank inadvertently trips alarm

Apr 29, 9:21 AM EDT

ap.org

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) -- Police officers who responded to what they thought was a robbery of a South Dakota bank found a school tour instead.

Sgt. Dave Beintema told The Daily Republic newspaper (http://bit.ly/1bdNypJ) that students were being given a tour of the First Dakota National Bank in Mitchell on Tuesday when one of them apparently inadvertently pushed the bank's panic alarm.

Beintema says the group of students found the whole incident amusing.

Mitchell is 70 miles west of Sioux Falls.

Information from: The Daily Republic, http://www.mitchellrepublic.com

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Scientology head's father was spied on, police report says

2015-04-08 latimes.com

David Miscavige became head of the Church of Scientology in 1986.

(Pierre-Philippe Marcou / AFP/Getty Images)

Kim Christensen

The father of Scientology leader David Miscavige was spied on, police report says

For 18 months private detectives tracked every move made by the father of David Miscavige, leader of the Church of Scientology, as they eavesdropped, spied on his emails and planted a GPS unit on his car, according to police records.

The church paid the two detectives $10,000 a week through an intermediary, the records indicate, all because Miscavige feared that his father would divulge too much about the organization's activities.

The episode, detailed in documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times, is the latest in a decades-long series of allegations that the church has intimidated, harassed or abused current and former members, at times going to great lengths to dissuade them from discussing their experiences or knowledge of the secretive religion.

The surveillance of Ronald Miscavige Sr., a longtime Scientologist who had recently parted ways with the church, was described by Florida private eye Dwayne S. Powell, after he was arrested in July 2013 near Milwaukee with two rifles, four handguns, 2,000 rounds of ammunition and a homemade silencer in his rented SUV.

When confronted by West Allis, Wis., police responding to a report of a suspicious man in the neighborhood, Powell said he was house-hunting, according to the documents.

"Do I have to give you my name?" he asked the officers. "What law did I break?"

Police placed Powell, now 43, under arrest on suspicion of obstruction and in his pockets found a folding knife, a flashlight and his Florida driver's license and private investigator credentials. His Ford Edge also contained two laptop computers, binoculars, a GPS tracking device and a stun gun.

IRelated

TELEVISION

Powell initially declined to name his employer. But at the police station, he told Det. Nicholas Pye that he was hired by the Church of Scientology to conduct "full-time" surveillance of the elder Miscavige, now 79, who lived in a nearby town, the records state.

David Miscavige and the church deny any connection to Powell.

"Please be advised that Mr. Miscavige does not know Mr. Powell, has never heard of Mr. Powell, has never met Mr. Powell, has never spoken to Mr. Powell, never hired Mr. Powell and never directed any investigations by Mr. Powell," Michael Lee Hertzberg, Miscavige's attorney, said in an email to The Times.

Gary Soter, an attorney for the church, said Scientology lawyers hire private investigators "in matters related to litigation" but he called the allegations involving David Miscavige "blatantly false." He declined to answer questions about David Miscavige's relationship with his father.

The Scientology building on Fountain Avenue in Los Angeles. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

In the past seven years, the church has poured at least $45 million into the former Gilman Hot Springs resort. In the foreground is the $18.5-million management building that includes a wing of offices for church leader David Miscavige.

Once, while tailing Miscavige on a shopping trip, Powell and his partner watched him grasp his chest and slump over while loading his car. After his arrest, Powell told police he'd thought Miscavige was having a heart attack and might die. He said he phoned his intermediary for instructions.

Two minutes later a man who identified himself as David Miscavige called him back, according to records.

"David told him that if it was Ron's time to die, to let him die and not intervene in any way," the records state, noting that the apparent emergency passed "and nothing further happened."

Miscavige's lawyer, Hertzberg, did not specifically respond to The Times' question about the incident.

Scientology was founded in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer who parlayed his self-help system, Dianetics, into a worldwide religion-without-a-deity. It has its own "study technology" developed by Hubbard, a quirky vocabulary and long held secret story of Xenu, a soul-stealing galactic overlord from 75 million years ago.

The church teaches that spiritual freedom — the state of "clear" — can be reached through one-on-one counseling known as auditing, aided by a polygraph-like device called an "e-meter." The sessions, along with extensive training courses, can cost Scientologists hundreds of thousands of dollars.

David Miscavige, 54, who spent his teenage years as an aide to Hubbard, has divided his time between the church's international headquarters near Hemet in Riverside County, known as the Gold Base, and its facilities in Clearwater, Fla.

He rose to the head of Scientology after the founder's death in 1986 amid a federal tax investigation that was later settled, resulting in the church's tax-exempt status. As chairman of the board of the Religious Technology Center, which holds the lucrative rights to the Scientology and Dianetics trademarks, he is the church's ultimate authority.

Ex-members, including four former top officials who told their stories to the St. Petersburg Times in 2009, have accused Miscavige of physical assaults and other violent behavior — all previously denied by Miscavige and the church.

Among other things that day in West Allis, Det. Pye quizzed Powell about the guns in his SUV.

"I asked Powell if he was hired as a hit man to kill Ron if the Church of Scientology ordered such action and he stated that he was not," Pye wrote in his report.

The weapons were for "sport shooting," Powell told Pye. He said his only mission was to keep a close watch on Ronald Miscavige, the records state.

"He explained that Ron and his younger wife, Becky, left the church and David is worried that they will divulge details about the church's activities and that their job was to know who Ron talked to, emailed with, where he went, what he did, etc.," Pye wrote.

Powell told police the church paid him through another Florida investigations firm, Terry Roffler and Associates. Although he reported directly to that firm — hourly, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. — "the main client is a David Miscavige, who is the son of Ronald Miscavige," the records note.

Roffler, reached by telephone, said he was "not too familiar" with the case and declined to discuss it.

In a brief telephone interview, Powell said he had let his investigator's license expire and no longer worked for the church. He declined to comment further.

Ronald Miscavige Sr. also declined to comment, although he and his wife told police as

recently as last September that they believed they were still being followed.

"They advised that Ronald's son, David Miscavige, the leader of the Church of Scientology, is obviously having them watched because they left the church two years ago and David is afraid that Ronald will speak with the media about the negative inner workings of the church and David's abuse of the members of the church," a police report states.

In his July 2013 interview with police, Powell said he and a second investigator, his 21-year-old son Daniel, searched the elder Miscavige's garbage, photographed him wherever he went and tracked him with a GPS device attached to his car and linked to an iPad that read out his location, the documents state. Police found marks on the underside of the car that they concluded were made by the magnetic GPS device, the records say.

"When Ron would go to the library to check his emails, they would stand behind him and take pictures of the screen," one report notes. "When he would be eating at a restaurant, they would sit nearby or at his table and listen to his conversations. If Ron was in his vehicle on the phone, they would pull up next to him and monitor his conversation."

Powell's son, in an interview with police, corroborated key details of his father's story, including that they worked for the church, records state. He also recalled the incident in the parking lot and David Miscavige's purported response, the documents say.

"Who could let their father die like that?" he said, according to the records.

His son was not arrested or charged.

kim.christensen@latimes.com

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Sea Lion Pup Wanders to High School, Gets "Detained"

By Laura McVicker
Updated at 12:38 PM EDT on Saturday, Apr 11, 2015

nbcmiami.com

San Diego Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's deputies had an unusual suspect in the back of their patrol squad car this week in Imperial Beach, San Diego, California.

Let's just say fingerprinting him could be tough.

A sea lion pup wandered away from the shoreline on Wednesday and waddled five blocks to Mar Vista High School. School staff called in San Diego County sheriff's deputies to "investigate."

Deputies detained the little guy, or put him in the back of the patrol car. Animal Control officers and SeaWorld workers arrived soon after to tend to the pup.

In a news release, sheriff's deputies jokingly described attempting to figure out the sea lion's motive.

"While deputy sheriffs attempted to interview him as to his activities, he clammed up and requested his lawyer," the news release said.

On a serious note, an increasing number of sea lion pups, in search of food, are washing up on California's shores and scientists have said they don't know the remedy.

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Seventeen endangered monkeys stolen from French zoo

Published Tuesday, May 12, 2015 9:42AM EDT

ctvnews.ca

Golden lion tamarin

Golden lion tamarins are on the list of critically endangered animals. (AFP / Kazuhiro Nogi)

Saint-Aignan, France - Two families of endangered monkeys were stolen from a zoo in central France over the weekend, the sanctuary's director told AFP late on Monday.

Rodolphe Delord said the thieves broke in to the zoo in Beauval on Saturday night, avoiding security cameras and patrols, and took seven golden lion tamarins and 10 silver marmosets.

"These are extremely rare, extremely fragile monkeys that are part of an international breeding programme," he told AFP, adding that the golden lion tamarins belong to the Brazilian government.

"We have absolutely no idea how such a thing could have happened," he said. "The thieves were experts. They knew exactly which to take."

The zoo is currently looking through CCTV footage and the French police and veterinary services have been informed, Delord said.

Concerns are now mounting for the health of the monkeys, which require a strict diet and are only allowed to be owned and sold by specialists. One of the golden lion tamarins also has an injury on its tail which needs daily attention.

"It is essential that we find these animals very quickly," said the zoo director. "They are very difficult to feed and should be looked after by specialists. We hope to find them very soon."

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Showmen's Rest: The Clown Graveyard in Chicago

cultofweird.com

By Charlie Hintz on April 24, 2015

Showmen's Rest is the site of a mass burial of clowns and other circus performers in Chicago after a train wreck killed 86 members of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus in 1918.

An elephant statue marks Showmen's Rest, a mass grave of clowns and other circus performers in Chicago.

An elephant statue marks Showmen's Rest, a mass grave of clowns and other circus performers. The lowered trunk symbolizes mourning.

In Forest Park, Illinois, the Woodlawn Cemetery contains a large plot marked by elephant statues. Engraved at the base of one large elephant are the words *Showmen's League of America*. On the gravestones, the dates of death are all marked June 22, 1918. Beneath is a mass grave containing the remains of clowns, trapeze artists, strongmen and other circus performers.

Hammond Circus Train Wreck

The Hammond circus train wreck killed 86 members of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus in 1918

On the night of June 22, 1918, members of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus were asleep in the rear cars of their train. It was 4am, and the train had stopped just outside Hammond, Indiana to cool an overheated axle box. They were en route to their next performance in Hammond, and then on to Monroe, Wisconsin. They

would never make it.

A second train carrying the animals and some people was about 90 minutes ahead of them. They would not hear of the disaster until they pulled into Hammond that morning and solemnly gathered for roll call to determine who was missing.

Alonzo Sargent, an engineer for 16 years with the Michigan Central Railroad, had fallen asleep at the helm of an empty 21-car military troop train. He missed all the automatic signals and flares warning him of the stalled train, smashing into the wooden circus cars at about 35 miles per hour. Most of the dead were believed to have been killed within the first 30 seconds. As survivors scrambled to pull themselves from the splintered mess, the train's old-fashioned kerosene-fueled lanterns ignited the wreckage.

Those who survived watched helplessly as their friends and family succumbed to the inferno.

In the hours following the crash, bodies were still being extracted from the smoldering wreck. Joe Coyle, a clown, was seen weeping beside the crushed bodies of his wife and children.

Showmen's Rest: Heroes of the Sawdust Ring

Mass burial of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus at Showmen's Rest after the train wreck

There were 127 injured and an estimated 86 dead. A mass grave was dug in a 750-plot section of Woodlawn Cemetery recently purchased by the Showmen's League of America. Many of the remains were unidentifiable, or known only by their stage names, so headstones at Showmen's Rest are marked with names like "Baldy," "Smiley," and "Unknown Female #43."

Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, 1917

Today, original circus wagons from the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus can be seen at Circus World in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Their winter headquarters in Peru, Indiana is now the International Circus Hall of Fame.

A photo of the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus in 1917

For further reading, take a look at these great articles I referenced while researching the details of the Hammond circus train wreck:

- A History of the Two Worst Circus Tragedies
- The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus Train Disaster

Weird Book Club: The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918 by Richard M. Lytle

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South Florida has lost 9,000 millionaires

2015-04-16 sun-sentinel.com

By Donna Gehrke-White Sun Sentinel
Study finds 9,000 fewer millionaire households in South Florida
Some affluent South Floridians moving to The Villages
Foreign wealthy may not be counted in number of South Florida millionaire households

We've lost some millionaires in South Florida.

The tri-county region had about 9,000 fewer millionaire households in 2014 compared with two years earlier — even as the population grew by 87,181 households, estimates Phoenix Affluent Market, a marketing research company that tracks affluent and high-net-worth Americans.

Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties had 102,593 households with at least $1 million in investable assets in 2014, not including equity in homes, Phoenix reported. That was down from 111,679 in 2012, while the total numbers of households grew from 2.1 million to 2.2 million.

David M. Thompson, Phoenix's managing director, said he's not sure why. His company's estimates are based on data from the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Census and Nielsen-Claritas, a demographic research company.

Thompson suggested the data may not include the number of millionaires arriving from outside the U.S. and buying homes here.

University of Central Florida economist Sean Snaith agreed that may be a factor. But he also said some affluent South Floridians have moved to The Villages, a booming retirement community in Central Florida. The Villages was the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan area for the second year in a row, the Census Bureau announced last month. Between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, The Villages' population grew from 108,483 to 114,350, the census found.

South Florida's affluent retirees began moving to the quiet retirement community after the recession ended and their home values began rising, Snaith said.

"South Florida is hectic. South Florida is everything that The Villages isn't," Snaith said.

The Villages had the state's highest per capita rate of millionaire households at 6.3 percent in 2014, Phoenix found.

Meanwhile, South Florida's per capita rate of millionaire households dropped to 4.7 percent in 2014, down from 5.3 percent two years earlier, Phoenix data showed.

West Coast communities such as Naples and Sarasota have a higher rate of millionaires than South Florida and also have attracted some of the affluent from South Florida, Snaith said.

South Florida still has the state's highest number of households with $1 million or more of investable assets, Phoenix said.

That has encouraged some wealth management companies to establish offices here just in the last year.

Atlantic Trust Private Wealth Management, which oversees more than $26 billion in assets, for example, recently set up an office in West Palm Beach that will serve the entire state.

"You have a migration of the wealthy, especially from the Northeast, after the bad weather," said Atlantic Trust Managing Director Brent Fykes, who heads the office.

dgehrke@sunsentinel.com or Twitter @donnagehrke

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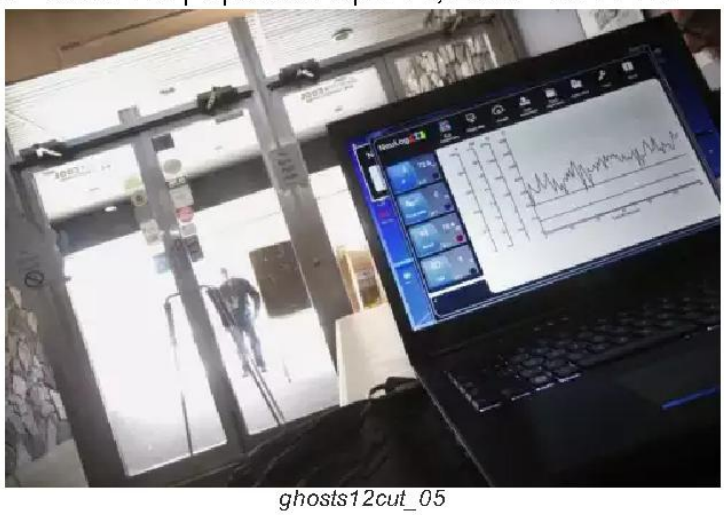
Published: April 11, 2015 - 08:05 PM | Updated: April 11, 2015 - 08:14 PM

ghosts12cut_02



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ghosts12cut_01

Spirits meet skeptics at Kent Paranormal Weekend April 12,2015 12:14 AM GMT

KENT: Shyann Dingus and her family rented an old farmhouse in Piketon a couple years ago that they swear was occupied by spirits.

Dingus said she was pushed by one and that other family members were pushed and scratched. She and others heard unexplained noises, voices — even a scream.

“Very dark stuff,” Dingus said. She remembered her 4-year-old niece visiting the farmhouse and saying, “We shouldn’t be afraid of the kids there.”

The family stayed just six months in what Dingus described as “a very pretty home” when they felt they had to move out.

On Saturday, Dingus and two companions traveled 3½ hours from Lucasville to attend the Kent Paranormal Weekend at the Kent Stage on East Main Street. They were among the visitors — including skeptics — looking to learn more about paranormal activity from the featured speakers and others.

“I think there is a growing interest in the paranormal,” said Richelle Charlton, co-owner of the historic — and many say haunted — Kent Stage who organized the program that ends

Sunday. She also sponsors an annual “ghost walk” in Kent.

Charlton said her interest in the paranormal goes back years, starting with a personal experience. She said she hopes people who come to the Kent Paranormal Weekend leave more informed and network with people in the field. Charlton said she would like to see skeptics move closer to becoming believers.

EctoVision Paranormal of Summit and Portage counties, which uses scientific instruments in its investigations, was a vendor as well as a presenter for the program. Tom Javorsky of EctoVision said it is the official paranormal organization for Kent Stage.

“Take my word for it, [Kent Stage] is haunted,” he said.

The Kent program featured George Noory, who hosts a popular nationally syndicated overnight radio program, *Coast to Coast AM*. Noory’s subject matter typically focuses on the paranormal, UFOs, and other strange occurrences and phenomena.

Kathy Savel, a Virginia resident who was visiting family in Kent, said she often listens to Noory and *Coast to Coast*.

“I believe but I haven’t actually seen anything for myself,” she said. “We always had a curiosity about it and tried to keep an open mind about it.”

One of the speakers, Nellie Kampmann, said she planned to talk about the importance of doing historical research as part of an investigation into paranormal activities. The Columbus resident organizes ghost tours and wrote *A Haunted History of Columbus, Ohio.*

Kampmann said she grew up in a haunted area.

“I started out being skeptical,” she said.

Another presenter, Sherri Brake, who owns Haunted Heartland Tours and has written six books, described herself as “an open-minded skeptic” regarding the paranormal. She is originally from Canal Fulton and now lives in West Virginia.

“I research. I love the documentation,” Brake said. Her tours take people to places where there have been executions and suicides, she said.

“There’s a dark side to it,” Brake said. “It’s dark history but it’s also our history.”

For more information, go to www.kentparanormalweekend.com.

Jim Mackinnon can be reached at 330-996-3544 or jmackinnon@thebeaconjournal.com

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Spirits of the Stanley - by David Merrill - MarshallIndependent.com | News, Sports, Jobs, Community Info. - Marshall Independent

marshallindependent.com

Spirits of the Stanley

April 19, 2015 - David Merrill

On my recent vacation in Colorado, I took the opportunity to take a ghost tour of the haunted Stanley Hotel. This hotel has enough spirits within its walls to move even the hardest critics. The Stanley Hotel, which opened in 1909, is arguably the most famous hotel in the state of Colorado. A TV remake version of the movie "The Shining" was filmed at the Stanley as well as the 1994 film "Dumb and Dumber". Author Stephen King came up with the original idea for the book version of "The Shining" while staying in Room 217 of the Stanley. The movie was actually shot at the Timberline Lounge in Mount Hood Oregon.

Room 217 is the room that sees the most activity. It is supposedly haunted by a hotel maid named Elizabeth Wilson, who was injured in an incident with a candle in 1911, after the hotel's electric system failed. She broke her ankles and was promised a job at the hotel for life. Wilson is reported to have started haunting 217 in 1950 and has been known to treat guests differently based on their life status. Wilson tends to treat married couples very well, making their bed for them and putting their clothes away. Single males or unmarried pairs staying in the room, however, may not have as easy of a time. She has been reported to climb into bed with unmarried couples and try to force them apart. She has also been known to lock guests out of their room and place their packed suitcases by the door.

The ghost tour I went on took us through the basement of the hotel as well as the concert hall, which is the most active space on the property. Two of the ghosts in the concert hall are Paul, Lucy and Eddie. Paul died of a heart attack and is rumored to enforce the 11 p.m. curfew of the concert hall. Faint sounds of "get out" have been heard after hours when no one is physically around and a construction worker also reported to be moved toward the door. The tour I took was around 7 p.m., so Paul didn't make an appearance during our tour. Lucy, on the other hand was a little more forthcoming.

Lucy was found taking shelter from the cold in the basement of the concert hall and was forced to leave. She is rumored to have died of frostbite and continues to make an appearance in the basement. She likes to make herself known by a sound of distant humming as well as shutting the door to her room where she was originally found. We spent part of the tour in this room and were encouraged to introduce ourselves to her and say where we were from. To those of you who don't believe in the paranormal, it would look like a group of people sitting around talking to an invisible person. I have video of the door shutting on its own, but the blog posts don't allow videos. In my opinion, this was Lucy letting us all know that she was there.

Eddie is the third ghost that roams the concert hall. While we found no traces or signs of him,

he supposedly makes himself more known to female guests and tourists. He has been known to play with females' hair and kiss their cheeks.

Spirits, for the most part, are believed to make themselves visible in the forms of "orbs", which are solid balls of light which can move any direction, reappear and disappear within seconds. As you'll see on the posted pictures, I was able to capture a few of these with my cell phone camera. The third one is more of a blur. It was taken by another guest on the tour and emailed to me. I can't say for sure it was an orb like the other two, but it was definitely strange to see between my arm and my shirt.

The fourth floor, which my friend and I wandered up to after the official tour was over, is another hotbed of activity. It is highlighted by the sounds of playing children, so giggles are often heard with no one to attribute them to. I ran into one couple who told me their water, once it was turned on, wouldn't shut off and I also had a waiter tell me he has had dining room doors close behind him on their own.

Other fun facts included the following: While filming "Dumb and Dumber", Jim Carrey stayed in room 217 and only lasted three hours before checking out and moving to a different location. To this day, he, nor co-star Jeff Danielson, who played Lloyd, will talk about what happened. This was in 1992 and the hotel didn't start taking advantage of its paranormal happenings until 1995.

Our female tour guide shared with me that one of the guests on the tour informed her there was the ghost of a child, which are in high supply at the hotel, watching her for the entirety of the tour. She explained that that was the "creepiest" thing she had happen to her since she started working at the hotel.

While the hotel's website claims there are no unfriendly guests at the hotel, our tour guide said she has had objects thrown at guests heads on occasion.

A friend of the tour guide's took the tour and when she looked in the mirror, the bottom half of her body was a Victoria-era dress while the top half was her normal modern day closing.

I went in believing in the paranormal and this tour, which I highly recommend if you are ever in Estes Park, heightened my belief even more.

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WATCH: Spooky footage reveals GHOST wandering through 250-year-old former church

express.co.uk

SPOOKY footage of a GHOST walking in front of CCTV has emerged at a 250-year-old former church where two priests are buried.

By Helen Barnett
PUBLISHED: 19:11, Thu, Apr 16, 2015 | UPDATED: 21:12, Thu, Apr 16, 2015

Ghost busters have been called in to rid the building, now the Get Baked restaurant in Leeds, of eerie squatters who are sending shivers down the spines of owners and customers alike.

A golden light orb moves across the screen during the footage, which was taken near the building's entrance.

It is believed spirits of two priests buried at the site may have been disturbed by drinkers revelling in the former church, sending them on an adventurous exploration of their former place of worship.

The church, in the heart of Yorkshire City's student area, was transformed into a nightclub before becoming the popular restaurant.

Get Baked owner Marcus Levin said: "It was like an orb of light moving across the screen. It really freaked me out."

Mr Levin discovered the creepy nocturnal activity when he spotted letters on a noticeboard had been moved around.

He added: "I checked over the CCTV and it stopped at bang on 3am. As I was watching it I could see a really distinctive bit of light and thought 'what's that?'

"It's like an orb of light coming from the side of the building, it stops waiting and you can see a human being walk across.

"My first reaction was 'what the hell'!"

In a state of shock Mr Levin went outside for a cigarette, where he then found a cross carved on the door.

He said: "It was pretty terrifying, especially as it's an old church.

"I was pretty sceptical before this, but I would definitely say I believe in ghosts a bit more now."

Mr Levin, who has been running the business in the former St David's Church since January this year, said a week before the spooky footage emerged at the end of March he had seen a similar figure of light through his office window.

He added: "I definitely think this is a creepy building and stuff is going on. It's said that two priests are buried in the tomb here.

"You can imagine if that were you you would be unsettled about people partying, drinking and doing all sorts around you years later.

The restaurant has appealed to paranormal experts to carry out a seance, and get ghost hunters to the scene.

Squeaky serenade: male mice woo females with song, scientists discover

Hannah Devlin , science correspondent
Wednesday 1 April 2015 Last modified on Wednesday 1 April 2015 theguardian.com

Study reveals that high-pitched 'singing' varies according to to social context, placing mice in an elite group of animal vocalisers

They may stop short of singing The Bells of Saint Mary's, as demonstrated by the mouse organ in Monty Python, but scientists have discovered that male mice woo females with ultrasonic songs.

The study shows for the first time that mouse song varies depending on the context and that male mice have a specific style of vocalisation reserved for when they smell a female in the vicinity.

In turn, females appear to be more interested in this specific style of serenade than other types of squeak that male mice produce.

"It was surprising to me how much change occurs to these songs in different social contexts, when the songs are thought to be innate," said Erich Jarvis, who led the work at Duke University in North Carolina. "It is clear that the mouse's ability to vocalise is a lot more limited than a songbird's or human's, and yet it's remarkable that we can find these differences in song complexity."

The findings place mice in an elite group of animal vocalisers, that was once thought to be limited to birds, whales, and some primates. Mouse song is too high-pitched for the human ear to detect, but when listened to at a lower frequency, it sounds somewhere between birdsong and the noise of clean glass being scrubbed.

The Duke University team recorded the male mice when they were roaming around their cages, when they were exposed to the smell of female urine and when they were placed in the presence of a female mouse.

They found that males sing louder and more complex songs when they smell a female but don't see her. By comparison, the songs were longer and simpler when they were directly addressing their potential mate, according to the findings published in Frontiers of Behavioural Neuroscience.

"It's like they make more effort to bring the female nearby. Once she's within reach, the game is already won and they focus more on mating behaviours," said Jonathan Chabout, a neuroscientist at Duke University, and co-author.

Appearing to confirm this interpretation, the scientists found that female mice showed more interest in the "calling" serenade, when they were placed in a tunnel with the two types of song playing through speakers at opposite ends.

The scientists said that female mice may use the quality of a male's singing as an indicator of whether they are of good genetic stock. More complex sequences of sounds might indicate that the male has other desirable qualities, such as better than average memory, for instance. Mice may also use vocal signatures to recognise each other, the authors speculated.

Some of these questions may be resolved thanks to a global database, Mousetube, that researchers have set up to upload mouse sounds for others to use in their own experiments.

The discovery that mice are capable of complex vocalisations could make them a more helpful model for studying conditions involving language problems.

Last month, a separate team found that mice with a genetic variant sometimes seen in autism have "stunted squeaks", for instance.

Mu Yang, who led this work at University of California, Davis, said that she would classify mouse song as social signals, rather than intentional communication.

"If someone hit you, you might yelp "Ouch!" then ask "Why did you hit me?!" The "Ouch" part is emitting a signal, a almost physical response. The "why did you hit me?" part is communication - a signal that means to elicit a meaningful reply," she said. "In my opinion, mouse vocalizations are more likely to be signal emitting than to communication. There are autistic individuals who are non-verbal or problems with uttering words, and mouse vocalization may be suitable for modelling these deficits."

comments (51)

- synergyc mashup
1 Apr 2015 7:04

  After all, what is the difference between the life that is in a cell, a mice, a chimp or a modern homo sapiens? Do not come and vanishes in the same way, an electromagnetic bond and one breath alone? Isn't life a single indivisible movement, an information flow that stores and builds up from a common ancestor? Or is there a unique quality in some place of the tree of life, a qualitative leap detached from all evolutionary processes and unrelated to the rest of life? If so, is it the same qualitative leap that the human language makes when differentiating between life itself and the rest of the universe? Also between human beings and the rest of animals, between health and disease, between life and death? Along these lines, there is a peculiar book, a preview in http://goo.gl/9fPSX3 Just another suggestion, in order to free-think for a while or just to be ignored

- evoclive
1 Apr 2015 7:32

  This is fucking pathetic, we've known they perform courtship song for years!

    - urbanegorrila evoclive
    1 Apr 2015 9:00

It would seem that they "jam" less when females are near, choosing more simple tunes to busk as they. They also seem to have work out some of the mouse melodies (or genres?) and seen how they control behaviour.

That's the real headline but "He's a Squeaky Lover" must have been irresistible.

If I was looking for a better pun I'd go for something like, "Hello, is it me you're squeaking for?" ...

- MikeMoonlight urbanegorrila
1 Apr 2015 10:23

The Hipster mice would go for Daft Punk's "I'm Up All Night To Get Squeaky...."

- AngrySkeptic evoclive
1 Apr 2015 16:47

Yes, but the purpose of research into things we already know is to provide us with real information about it, why it happens, etc. Research frequently confirms what my grandmother taught me, but I know know the reason. Of course, the reason does not matter in the real world, as we know that the what and how will always produce the expected results. But research makes contributions to knowledge, if not always to life.

- GerryBrady
1 Apr 2015 7:37

I didn't bother to read this as today is the first of April. I'll read it tomorrow if it is still on the website.

- AngrySkeptic GerryBrady
1 Apr 2015 16:43

It was not on the web site earlier today. April Fool jests must end at noon. For the Guardian that would be noon GMT. If they added a jest *after* noon GMT, it does not count.

- palfreyman AngrySkeptic
1 Apr 2015 20:17

> For the Guardian that would be noon GMT.

Does the Graun not switch to BST?

- AngrySkeptic palfreyman
2 Apr 2015 10:13

It matters not to the earth's rotation.

- FabulousHorrendo
1 Apr 2015 8:20

Clearly they didn't watch Bagpuss as children.

    - MikeMoonlight FabulousHorrendo
    1 Apr 2015 9:49

    And what about that mouse who lived in a windmill in old Amsterdam?

    Apparently, he sang every morning...

    - Glen Pierce MikeMoonlight
    1 Apr 2015 10:04

    ".....how lucky I am", going clip clipity clop on the stairs.....right there.

    - MikeMoonlight Glen Pierce
    1 Apr 2015 10:17

    What? A little mouse with clogs on? Well, I declare...

- Tricky_Disco
1 Apr 2015 9:08

When you have to beg for it it's time to give up.

- BusStopCock
1 Apr 2015 9:15

Probably sung by Nana Mousekouri :-)

    - MikeMoonlight BusStopCock
    1 Apr 2015 9:54

    ...Or Vanilla Mice, "Mice, Mice, Baby..."

- timtams
1 Apr 2015 9:35

The last time I tried to serenade my girlfriend my dog decided to take a massive dump on the carpet just as I was getting to the second line.

    - artdeco timtams
    1 Apr 2015 10:50

    At least the cat didn't throw up, I hope! I'm not sure which is worse.

    Apropos ultrasonic mice - maybe you actually hit the **brown note**? It could be

scientific evidence at last, that it works, at least on dogs! Of course, this hypothesis does presuppose that you're a whale or something, able to go infrasonic.
:D

- artdeco artdeco
1 Apr 2015 10:57

*) Apparently the song "Squeaky Bum Time" was recorded, but never released, by Barry White.

- blarneybanana timtams
1 Apr 2015 14:53

I told you it was a bad idea to include the lyric "I love you more than my dog."

- ID7776906
1 Apr 2015 9:44

Three dancing mice

- SugarPlumpFairy
1 Apr 2015 10:42

My cat has just perked his ears up when I played the video.

- Madza Yasodara Farias Virgens SugarPlumpFairy
1 Apr 2015 22:13

Seems like this is no news for your cat! :P

- artdeco
1 Apr 2015 11:04

It's well known that mice dig classical music, but it has to be conducted by a proper mice-tro

- fallentower artdeco
1 Apr 2015 22:17

Well it is the Graun after all...

- squirrelnuts
1 Apr 2015 12:08

As a neuroscientist and breeder of genetic mice I have seen my fair share of mice breeding and no, this is just 1st April bullshit.

- alientv

1 Apr 2015 12:08

And people get paid to do these useless experiments.

I know, troll bait, but there you go.

- AngrySkeptic alientv
  1 Apr 2015 16:34

  It keeps the academia world turning ...

- SonicSmith
  1 Apr 2015 14:09

Sometimes in a lonesome country, I could get my 4 stray dogs to howl along in unison with me which cheered me up. However I never had a female friend that would sing me a soothing song, as a prelude to love making. I am sure it would have intensified the experience, as long as I was allowed to pick one song from 5 that she had written down. To be fair, would even give a foot massage in return.

- Carolan99
  1 Apr 2015 14:16

Not impressed until they start doing this;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiv2OtLUyw0

- blarneybanana
  1 Apr 2015 14:48

And when it all goes wrong...

"Squeak?"

SQUEAK

- Hawkeye36 blarneybanana
  1 Apr 2015 15:06

  Maybe the mouses voice changed.

- GuidoFox Hawkeye36
  1 Apr 2015 18:51

  I suspect this is a reference to Terry Pratchett's Death of Rats, otherwise known as the Grim Squeaker.

  Would also have been a good comment in reply to Carolan99's video, above.

- blarneybanana GuidoFox
  1 Apr 2015 21:23

  Nicely spotted, Mr Fox. It is a Pratchettian reference. Mice are close enough

- blarneybanana
1 Apr 2015 14:52

Take any song title with "freak" "freaky" etc and substitute:
eg
"Supersqueak! supersqueak! She's super squeaky."

- riveri5i5
1 Apr 2015 16:03

Excellent research, And then they go and screw up with a reductive brain-dead interpretation of the data - "The scientists said that female mice may use the quality of a male's singing as an indicator of whether they are of good genetic stock." Yeah, every mouse is thinking 'good genetic stock, must prioritise that'. Utter rubbish!

This is a prime example of the cod science that is ruining our understanding of living organisms and the history of life on earth. This is why we need a paradigm shift, and urgently. There is no connection between the research findings and the cobbled-on interpretation but scientists continually do this - take empirical evidence (good quality science) and then pretend it confirms the 'grand narrative' of genetics driving evolution (they do this, demostrate mindless obedience to convention to prove they are not going to rock the boat and thus hope to secure more funding). It does not. Squeaking mice tells us about mice but nothing about evolution. Yet, bet what you like, textbooks will prove evolution by reference to these empirical discoveries. It infuriates me beyond expression.

No, I am not a creationist attacking evolution because I believe in a different mythology. I am an atheist and a scientist who wants to defend high quality in science. Evolutionism is a quasi-religious faith. It is not science.

Reply |
Report
- AngrySkeptic
1 Apr 2015 16:40

Anyone is liable to squeak loud and long, if trapped in a small space ripely stinking of urine. The simpler song is probably the mouse saying something like, "Thank God you're here. You smell rather nicer than your pee". That's true of a lot of humans, too.

- fivefeetfour
1 Apr 2015 20:46

When I smell female urine instead of singing I usually shout WHO HAS FORGOTTEN

TO DAMN FLUSH IT DOWN

- blarneybanana fivefeetfour
  2 Apr 2015 4:14

  The old drought time mantra: "if it's yellow stay mellow, if it's brown flush it down."

- Tiranoaguirre
  1 Apr 2015 23:03

And I always thought it was the mouse with the most cheese that got the galmice.

- pbendall
  1 Apr 2015 23:04

"The scientists said that female mice may use the quality of a male's singing as an indicator of whether they are of good genetic stock." - How do they work that out? Do they feed the song into a computer programme which then converts it into the male mouse's genome?

- elephantwoman
  1 Apr 2015 23:10

'Cheese cheese me oh yeah..like I cheese you.'

- diefackel
  1 Apr 2015 23:49

I recall a Dandy cover from about 1964ish. I assume the main character was Korky The Kat. Anyway, it traded on the then popularity of the Moptops, as it featured a group of mice singing "She loves cheese, yeah, yeah, yeah".

it looks like the geniuses up in Dundee were ahead of the game on this one.

- voidhowling
  2 Apr 2015 0:10

This video really confused our cat.

- theirmind
  3 Apr 2015 6:24

Like Romeo singing to Juliet.

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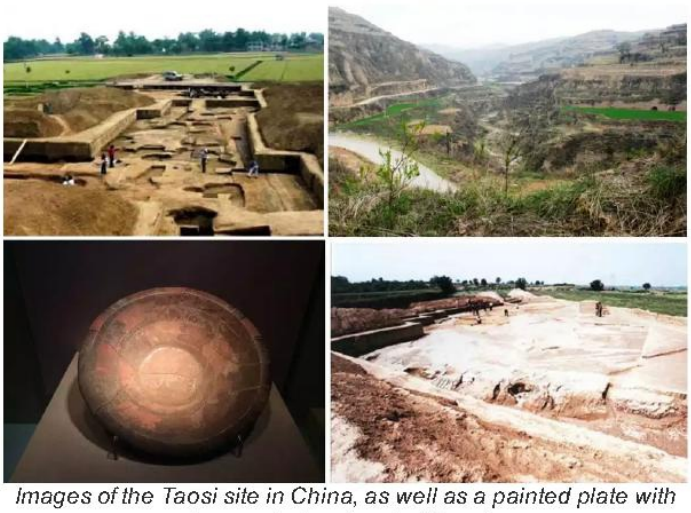
Taosi Confirmed as 4,200-Year-Old Legendary Capital of Chinese Hero Emperor

ancient-origins.net



Images of the Taosi site in China, as well as a painted plate with dragon design found at the site

21 April, 2015 - 15:09Mark Miller

Taosi Confirmed as 4,200-Year-Old Legendary Capital of Chinese Hero Emperor

Chinese archaeologists say they have confirmed the ancient capital of legendary emperor Yao Tangdi, who lived 4,200 years ago and who is said to have brought peace and "illumined the people." Yao has been considered mythical by some, but the Chinese government says this perfect ruler was real, not mythical. The archaeological site of Taosi in Shanxi, China, has now been identified as the ancient capital, known as Pingyang.

"The archaeological circle has reached a consensus that Taosi is the capital of the period of Yao," said Wang Wei, chief of archaeology with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Excavations began there in 1978.

Taosi, the ancient city that scholars say was founded by Emperor Yao Tangdi

Taosi, the ancient city that scholars say was founded by Emperor Yao Tangdi (Cultural China photo)

"Taosi is what some historical materials identify as Pingyang, the capital of the Yao regime," said He Nu, a scholar with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "The era of Yao and the succeeding emperors Shun and Yu are not legend. They are true history."

Yao's temple and mausoleum are also in Taosi, which was also known as Pingyang but is now called Linfen City.

Yao's rule was said to be so good that nature became resplendent.

Confucius spoke highly of Yao, saying he was virtuous, righteous and generous. Britannica.com says:

> Legends recount that after 70 years of Yao's rule, the sun and moon were as

resplendent as jewels, the five planets shone like strung pearls, phoenixes nested in the palace courtyards, crystal springs flowed from the hills, pearl grass covered the countryside, rice crops were plentiful, two unicorns (omens of prosperity) appeared in the capital at Pingyang, and the wondrous calendar bean made its appearance, producing one pod each day for half a month before the 15 pods withered one by one on successive days.

Portrait of legendary Emperor Yao as imagined by the Song Dynasty painter Ma Lin (Wikimedia Commons)

Yao's name is often linked to his successor, Shun, a peasant whom Yao elected to elevate to emperor over his son because Shun was more worthy. Yao also gave two of his daughters in marriage to Shun.

Both Yao and Shun have been lionized through history as benevolent rulers, and wonderful natural phenomena were attributed to Shun's virtuous rule too.

Portrait of legendary Emperor Yao as imagined by the Song Dynasty painter Ma Lin

The blogger and amateur historian Cloud Chronicler identifies seven ancient heroes of the Chinese people, including Yao, Shun and Shun's successor Yu. Two earlier culture heroes were Fuxi, who taught the Chinese to domesticate animals and devised the eight trigrams of the divination book the *I Ching*, or *Book of Changes*; and Shen Nong or Divine Farmer, who invented the plough and hoe and taught the people agriculture.

Two emperors preceded Yao, Shun and the virtuous Yu. One was Huangdi, or the Yellow Emperor, whom Cloud Chronicler calls "the founding ruler and primordial ancestor of the Chinese." He is said to be the ancestor of Yao. There had been chaos in China until Huangdi raised an army and conquered the petty lords, then secured the Yellow River region. According to legend, he invented writing, boats, carts, the bow and arrow, ceramics, and his wife invented silk.

Magpies and Hare, by Cui Bai of the 10th century AD; according to legend, an ancestor of Emperor Yao invented silk. (Wikimedia Commons)

"Of [Huangdi's] successor, *Zhuan Xu*, little can be said except that he invented the patriarchal family institution, forbade close-kin marriages, and passed the mantel of leadership to *Yao*," Cloud Chronicler writes.

Historians of ancient China say Yao lived in Hebei Province but later went south and established Pingyang or Taosi as capital.

Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, says recent excavations reveal the ancient city of Taosi was about 2.8 million square meters (691 acres) and had functional divisions.

Magpies and Hare, by Cui Bai of the 10th

century AD; according to legend, an ancestor of Emperor Yao invented silk.

The Chinese Archaeology blog says archaeologists at Taosi excavated a palace, an astronomical observatory and domiciles of elites and common people and a cemetery for elites. The discoveries there prompted scholars to establish the name Taosi Culture, which they dated from 4300 to 3900 BC. Wonderful objects were found, including a ceramic plate with a painted dragon, ceramic drums, crocodile-skin drums, jade and stone axes, ceremonial wooden wares and chime stones.

Featured image: Images of the Taosi site in China (marquemywords.co.uk), as well as a painted plate with dragon design found at the site (Wikimedia commons).

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Thursday 09 April 2015

Teenager finds 6ft snake curled up on bathroom radiator

Real-life pet detective comes to rescue after 16-year-old spots northern pine snake curled up in bath mat on radiator in bathroom of Littleborough, Rochdale, home

Hannah Brierley found the 6ft albino bull snake in her bathroom Hannah Brierley found the 6ft albino bull snake in her bathroom Photo: MEN Photo: MEN

A 6ft snake discovered by a stunned teenager in a bathroom was recovered by a real-life pet detective.

Karen Marriott dialed 999 after her 16-year-old daughter Hannah spotted the reptile curled up in a bath mat on a radiator.

Craig Wallace, a detective based at Rochdale police station, overheard the control room call and offered to help as he has experience with keeping snakes.

Det Con Wallace went to the family's home in Littleborough, Rochdale, and managed to capture the snake in a pillow slip.

It was taken back to the station before being transferred into the care of the RSPCA.

The reptile, white with black eyes, is believed to be a northern pine snake and Det Con Wallace thinks it might be an escaped pet that got into the house during recent warm weather.

Karen, 40, said: "It was like something out of a film. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Everybody needed a wee, but we couldn't go."

And the hero policeman joked: "I wanted to keep it as a station pet, but no-one would sit near me."

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Texans blame secret military takeover for Walmart closings, secret tunnels

Dylan Baddour, Houston Chronicle
April 22, 2015 Updated: April 23, 2015 7:48am

houstonchronicle.com

A Walmart in Midland, Texas will close for six months for renovations, however some skeptics say the closure is linked to a secret military training exercise called "Operation Jade Helm." Photo: Tim Fischer, Midland Reporter-Telegram

News of the Army's operation Jade Helm stirred up widespread fears and deep mistrust of the American government in a sizable bloc of the public. Thousands of tweets, dozens of online publications and plenty of Chron.com commenters sounded the alarm of an impending military takeover.

Now the virtual world of alternative news has added a new twist to the tale: Walmart is in on it, and there are secret underground tunnels.

Multiple websites drew links between the suspiciously swift and simultaneous closure of a half dozen Walmarts nationwide and the military training drill that will have some of America's most elite units--Green Berets and Navy SEALS among them--trying to blend in to the civilian population in Texas and the Southwestern states.

It may seem crazy, but the fearful aren't a totally marginal crowd. Online outcry over the original plans to hold the so-called realistic military training in American cities drew an official response from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

Stars and Stripes, the news publication of the U.S. military, ran an article titled "Army Special Operations Command pushes back against alarmist claims about upcoming exercise," The Washington Post wrote "Why Operation Jade Helm 15 is freaking out the Internet—and why it shouldn't be" and VICE News reported "conspiracy theorists think an army training exercise will bring martial law to the US this summer."

A talk radio host even raised the issue in a conversation with Republican presidential hopeful Rand Paul.

Now Walmart is in the picture. The world's largest retailer raised eyebrows last week when it simultaneously shuttered five stores—two in Texas, one in California, Oklahoma and Florida —and laid off 2,200 workers with only several hours' notice. The stores claimed plumbing

problems prompted closures.

But bloggers have different ideas. The website Intellihub, the "Civilian Intelligence Agency," suggested the Walmarts are being converted into giant entrance facilities for a network of underground tunnels the military will use to transport troops across the country.

Another website, All News Pipeline, poses the question: "will these massive stores soon be used as 'food distribution centers' and to house the headquarters of invading troops from China, here to disarm Americans...?"

Another website, Before It's News, ran a post titled "JADE HELM: Explosive new information! Underground government tunnels beneath closing Walmarts, missile platforms, facial recognition, bundy ranch and Walmart tied to DHS! They are all connected!"

> EXPOSED! Wal-Mart Closings and Jade Helm Prep - #NewWorldNextWeek https://t.co/lNroHF3skx via @YouTube
>
> — CatoTheYounger (@catoletters) April 17, 2015
>
> "Live Interview with Walmart/Jade Helm 15 Insider Stephanie Hughes!" on YouTube - https://t.co/3BDhiBLQ9I
>
> — Jeffrey s borreson (@jeffreymadwisc) April 22, 2015
>
> Are Wal-Mart Closings In Jade Helm 15 States A Sign We've Sold Them The Rope They'll Use To Hang Us With? => Irony =>http://t.co/JTddxlntq4
>
> — John Galt (@jgalt666) April 22, 2015
>
> Underground US Tunnel Map Links WalMart, Jade Helm Locations. Wow Check This Out! – Free Patriot Post http://t.co/0Z2h5bDUSh
>
> — Dixie Diva (@DixieDiva_CSA2A) April 21, 2015
>
> @dahboo7 world hum map matches w/jade helm & Walmart map. How long have they been setting up!?http://t.co/asDzmWhoYd pic.twitter.com/qgQmeG3tu4
>
> — Meredith (@marymredith79) April 21, 2015
>
> **ALERT ALL CITIZENS!** Jade Helm Troops in Corona & Ontario CA, Turkish Troops in TX Walmart | Inside Jade Helm… http://t.co/a3NXDAW22s
>
> — Before It's News (@beforeitsnews) April 22, 2015

Multiple websites cite video showing police surrounding one of the recently closed Walmarts in California, and the empty shelving inside arranged strangely in an arch around loading bay doors. Allegations of secret cross-country tunnels and so-called "deep underground military bases" (DUMBs for short), are based on a 2004 online forum for Paulding County, Georgia, in which local residents discuss the construction effort underway in their area.

"The tunneling project is a joint venture involving the National Security Agency, CIA, FBI, MiB, Homeland Security & a few other groups," one user posted. (It's unknown if the "MiB" refers to shadowy, fictitious "Men in Black" agents made famous by the Will Smith movies)

He continued: "The addition of new Walmart facilities in northwest Georgia gives spur hubs and depots easy access to large areas that can be partitioned off for moving of very large equipment and large numbers of people in case of national emergency."

Websites also post an apparently hand-drawn map of a nationwide underground tunnel system dated 1978. Now they fear that the closed superstores and alleged tunnels underneath will be used to advance diabolical military plans to disarm and imprison Americans during the upcoming Jade Helm.

But the military calls the operation a drill in realistic warfare. County officials who spoke with army command said they'd been notified that troops would be operating undercover amongcivilians, testing their abilities to blend in. Military specialists have interpreted acronyms on an Army document and inferred that small groups of elite soldiers would stage a long-distance escape from simulated hostile territory. The Washington Post reports numerous past military drills have simulated activities inside hostile territories in the United States before.

Yet many Americans apparently still believe they are the enemies the military is preparing to fight. It mirrors a national trend of extreme skepticism—a CNN poll last year showed trust in the government was at an all-time low, with only 13 percent saying the trust the government most of the time. Moreover, a 2012 report documented a dramatic rise in Americans rejecting the legitimacy of their government outright, and a 2015 Department of Homeland Security report warned of danger from right-wing groups resentful of military and police.

Jade Helm will take place in 17 Texas cities from July to September 2015. County officials have been advised of military plans and should be able to answer citizen questions about road closures or simulated violence near residential areas.

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The 1000-Mile Hike That Shaped the National Park Service

© christina ung The 1000-Mile Hike That Shaped the National Park Service

John Muir was living the American dream. In 1867, Muir, who had emigrated from Scotland as a boy, parlayed his technical acumen and inventive spirit into an engineering gig at an Indianapo- lis carriage factory. The job was good, but Muir especially liked that it left him with plenty of time to pursue his true passion: botany. As Muir delved deeper into the subject, he dreamed of trekking through the South to study the region's plants.

Then, in March, Muir suffered a horrific accident. An awl flew off a machine and into his face and blinded him. Muir's promising career as an inventor seemed doomed, and he spent six weeks resting in a darkened room. As friends visited and read him accounts of far-flung wildernesses like Yosemite, Muir made a deal with himself. If he ever recovered his sight, he'd give up machinery and spend his days studying plants in the wild.

Miraculously, Muir's vision returned. And he kept his promise. In September, he set out on history's most audacious road trip: a 1,000-mile hike from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. Muir took the scenic route. "My plan was simply to push on in a general southward direction by the wildest, leafiest, and least trodden way I could find," he wrote in his journal.

Muir traveled light. He carried only a press to preserve plant specimens, a Bible, a change of underwear, and a book of Robert Burns's poetry. His few belongings meant that he was reliant on the kindness of anyone he passed. As he wrote, "I oftentimes had to sleep out without blankets, and also without supper or breakfast. But usually I had no great difficulty in finding a loaf of bread in the widely scattered clearings of the farmers."

Although food was scarce, natural beauty was abundant. Muir stopped in Kentucky to inspect Mammoth Cave, noting, "I never before saw Nature's grandeur in so abrupt contrast with paltry artificial gardens." He wandered through Tennessee's Cumberland Mountains and south to Georgia, where he spent at least one night sleeping in a cemetery. Along the way he kept detailed records that were eventually published as *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf*. Deeply religious, Muir blended science and spirituality deftly. When he noted his discovery of two new species of ferns, he wrote, "Every tree, every flower, every ripple and eddy of this lovely stream seemed solemnly to feel the presence of the great Creator."

Despite stopping to study and appreciate nature, Muir kept up the grueling pace. He finished his thousand-mile trek in less than two months, and on October 23, Muir ambled into Cedar Key, Fla. He had hoped to hop a ship and continue his hike in South America but abandoned his plans after contracting malaria. When he recovered, he changed course and headed up the coast to New York, where he caught a boat to California. His adventurous spirit intact, Muir continued to travel and spread his gospel of natural beauty from the West Coast.

Muir's plainspoken, humble writings made him America's most celebrated naturalist. Luminaries like Ralph Waldo Emerson sought him out when they traveled west. Emerson even offered him a teaching job at Harvard, but Muir had no desire to go back indoors. ("I never for a moment thought of giving up God's big show for a mere profship!" he wrote.)

In 1892, Muir cofounded the Sierra Club, and in 1903, he and Theodore Roosevelt spent three days camping alone in the Yosemite Valley. Along snow-kissed passes, the two discussed what a national system of parks would look like. Muir preached that such unsullied lands could offer the country "places for rest, inspiration and prayers." But to a naturalist like Roosevelt, the land made its own case.

By the end of the trip, the president had committed to preserving Yosemite. Over the years, Muir earned the nickname Father of the National Parks, by advocating for and winning federal protection for the Grand Canyon, Mount Rainier, and Glacier Bay among others—each an American treasure he'd witnessed with his own eyes.

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The Ancient Tradition of the Whirling Dervishes of the Mevlevi Order

ancient-origins.net

Whirling Dervishes of the Mevlevi Order

23 April, 2015 - 15:04 dhwty

The Ancient Tradition of the Whirling Dervishes of the Mevlevi Order

The divine may be experienced through a variety of means. In various global spiritual traditions, these include prayer, meditation on sacred texts, participation in religious ceremonies and going on pilgrimages. There are other means of achieving a religious experience that are perhaps not so common in the Western world. One of these is through the medium of dance, the most famous of which may be the incredible whirling dance practiced by the Sufi dervishes of the Mevlevi Order.

The Mevlevi Order was founded by the followers of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi-Rumi (popularly referred to as Rumi) in 1273. Rumi was a 13th century Islamic spiritual leader who was born in 1207 in Balkh in present day Afghanistan. With the onset of the Mongol invasion of Central Asia between 1215 and 1220, Rumi's family journeyed westwards, eventually settling down in Konya, Anatolia, in present day Turkey.

One of Rumi's most fruitful friendships was with Shams-e Tabrizi, whom he met at the age of 37. Among other things, Shams had introduced Rumi to music, poetry and dance as a mystical way of connecting with the divine. It is these artistic expressions that are the characteristic features of the whirling dervishes of the Mevlevi Order, which was founded after Rumi's death by his son, Sultan Veled, his disciple Çelebi Hüsamettin, and his grandson Ulu Arif Çelebi.

The Mevlevi Sema ceremony is arguably the Order's most distinct practice, and is said to have been created by Rumi himself. Its form, however, was only finalized sometime in the 15th century by one of Rumi's great-grandsons, Pir Adil Çelebi. The Mevlevi Order became a respected school of Sufism (the esoteric dimension of Islam). Moreover, a blood relation was formed between the Order and the Ottoman imperial dynasty when one of Rumi's descendants, Devlet Hatun, married Sultan Bayezid I.

Although the Mevlevi Order was occasionally criticized for holding heretical ideas, it was still highly regarded by both the Ottoman sultans and the common people.

Whirling dervishes in Galata Mawlawi House (Ottoman Empire), 1870. Public Domain

In 1925, the Mevlevi Order was outlawed in the newly formed Republic of Turkey as part of its plans for the secularization of the country. In the 1950s, the ban was eased, and the Sema was allowed to be performed in public in order to attract tourists to Turkey. In the 1990s, the ban was further eased, and the Sema was inscribed in UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.

Despite now largely being a cultural performance for tourists, the Sema is imbued with religious meaning, and a greater appreciation for the dance may be achieved by exploring these symbolisms. For instance, the semazen's (a person performing the Sema) camel hair hat represents the tombstone of the ego, while the white skirt symbolizes the ego's shroud. When the semazen removes his black cloak, it is meant to signify his spiritual rebirth into the truth. Additionally, when the semazen crosses his arms over his chest, he represents the number one and testifies to God's unity.

Whirling dervishes in Galata Mawlawi House (Ottoman Empire), 1870.

Model of a dervish studying. Mevlâna museum; Konya, Turkey.

Whirling Dervishes performing the Sema

Model of a dervish studying. Mevlâna museum; Konya, Turkey. Wikimedia Commons

The dance begins with the singing of the *Nat-i Serif*, a eulogy to the Prophet Muhammad and all the Prophets before him. This is followed by a drumbeat symbolizing God's command 'Be' for the creation of the universe. After this is the *Taksim*, an improvisation on the reed flute meant to express the life-giving breath of God.

The *Taksim* is followed by the *Derv-i Veled* ('Sultan Veled procession), in which the semazen make a circular, anti-clockwise procession thrice around the turning space. The semazen greet each other thrice, representing the three stages of knowledge: knowledge gained from others or through study, knowledge gained through one's observations and knowledge gained through direct experience.

Whirling Dervishes performing the Sema. Matthew C. Wright/Flickr

After the procession, the semazen begins the Sema, which consists of four *selams* or musical movements. Each *selam* has its own distinct rhythm, and explores different religious themes. The semazen opens both arms to the sides and revolves from right to left, expressing his embrace of the entire universe. With an open palm, the semazen's right had is then extended upwards, thus indicating his reception of God's beneficence. As for the left hand, it is extended downwards to indicate the distribution of these divine gifts to all mankind.

Contrary to popular belief, the semazen do not aim at losing consciousness or falling into a state of ecstasy. Rather, the Sema is meant to help the semazen to completely submit himself to God, and unite with him. When the four *selams* are completed, a verse from the Quran is recited, followed by a prayer for the repose of the souls of all the Prophets and all believers. The semazen then retire silently to their rooms for further meditation.

This divine dance is well recognized the world over as a renowned symbol, an amazing performance, and unique spiritual tradition.

The semazen, or Whirling Dervish, dances the Sema. Wikimedia Commons

The semazen, or Whirling Dervish, dances the Sema.

Featured image: Mevlevi dervishes whirling in a divine dance. 18th century painting. Public Domain

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The Armenian rugs that tell two stories - BBC News

bbc.com

By Liana Aghajanian Los Angeles

- 22 April 2015
- From the section Magazine

Hratch Kozibeyokian and the Kunzler rug

The story of two rugs, one given to US President Calvin Coolidge, and another recently found in a home in San Diego, helps unravel the history of the US's first humanitarian aid effort and the tragic fate of Armenians in Turkey 100 years ago.

When Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin walked into the home of 97-year-old Elibet Kunzler last July, she instantly knew the importance of what she had found.

Lying in the middle of the living room was a striking, colourful rug with more than 800,000 hand-tied knots. It was decorated with exotic plants, prancing deer and leopards that almost looked like they were leaping off the ground. To Mangassarian-Goschin it was clear this was an incredible missing piece of history.

The rug was woven by refugee orphans in Lebanon who had been saved from the 1915 Ottoman-era massacre of 1.5 million Armenians - a massacre that many scholars regard as genocide. More than 3,000 rugs were made and given to American donors who had paid for the children to be looked after.

This one remained hidden for almost 70 years in Kunzler's home, travelling with her from Lebanon, to New York, New Hampshire and finally San Diego, where she settled with her husband and children.

"I had a feeling, that there was something with this rug, because I had never seen anything like this in my entire life," says Mangassarian-Goschin, director of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in Mission Hills, California, which specialises in Armenian antiquities.

Now, on the 100th anniversary of the massacre, this orphan rug and others like it are serving as a reminder of the US's first humanitarian relief effort, and allowing Armenians to connect with an important, if bitter part of their heritage.

The American Committee for Syrian and Armenian Relief, now known as the Near East Foundation, was the first nonsectarian international relief campaign to exist in the US.

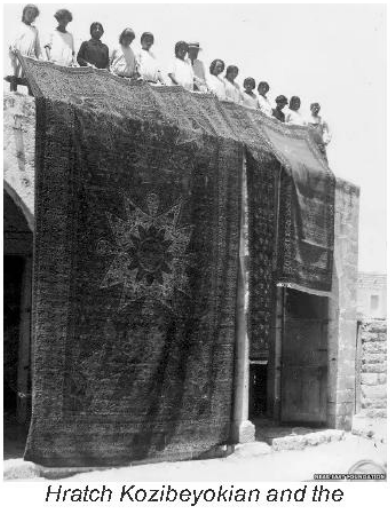
Hratch Kozibeyokian and the Kunzler rug The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

It was founded in response to the plight of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians who were subject to deportation, forced marches, starvation, and execution at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, in the early months of World War One.

Cans of condensed milk were collected at film screenings across the US, and child actor Jackie Coogan who starred in Charlie Chaplin's classic, The Kid, passionately campaigned to raise funds. More than $110 million - an incredible sum at the time - was donated to fund schools, orphanages and other facilities. These efforts saved the lives of a million refugees, including more than 100,000 Armenian orphans.

Kunzler's father, Jacob, was a Swiss missionary working for the relief committee as an orphanage director, evacuating Armenian orphans from Urfa, in Turkey, by foot, wagon and donkey to the mountain village of Ghazir in Lebanon. Once they were settled, he created rug-weaving facilities in the orphanage with the help of Armenian master weaver Hovhannes Taschjian, who trained more than 1,400 Armenian girls in the art of weaving, dyeing and patterning. The orphans were being taught a vocational trade to ensure their economic survival, while also creating the rugs to be sold and donated for fundraising.



Hratch Kozibeyokian and the

Affectionately called "Papa and Mama Kunzler", Jacob and his wife Elizabeth were singlehandedly responsible for saving the lives of 8,000 Armenian orphans, and they were so loved that the girls decided to make a rug for their family too.

Elibet, the youngest of the four Kunzler girls, born in Urfa, was invited to choose colours, and eventually decided on blue. The orphans worked to create the rug, which Papa Kunzler then gave to Elibet. Eventually, her parents shipped it to her from Lebanon to the US, just after the end of World War Two.

Polly Marshall, Elibet's youngest daughter, who is now set to inherit the rug, remembers playing marbles with her siblings on it as a child. The Kunzler girls would incorporate the plants and

Kunzler rug The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

animals in the rug's design - said to depict the Garden of Eden - within their game.

"It was a part of our daily life, completely," she says. "Now the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of my mother play on it and I'd like to think that there's some way that spirit of these children are in this rug and [that] it attracts children through generations."

What makes the Kunzler rug even more significant is that it is considered to be a sister to the rug given to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925, as a sign of gratitude for the US relief effort, by this time renamed Near East Relief.

Hratch Kozibeyokian and the Kunzler rug The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

Though the Kunzler rug is much smaller, both rugs contain the same animals, plants, medallions and Armenian symbolic imagery.

When the Coolidge rug briefly went on display last year at the White House Visitor Center, Polly Marshall was one of those who paid an emotional visit to see it, and even found herself sneaking behind the rope to touch it.

Hratch Kozibeyokian and the Kunzler rug The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

"It was like my link to my grandparents, who I never met, and the orphans. I felt like I was touching all those lives," she says. "It's such a striking statement about these people and what they went through."

When Mangassarian-Goschin approached Marshall to see if she would allow the Kunzler rug to be displayed, she agreed without hesitation. If people couldn't see the White House rug - which has spent most of its life in storage, and was quickly returned there - they should have the chance to see its sister, she thought.

It is now slated to be exhibited temporarily at the Ararat-Eskijian museum in May.

"If this rug can help ease people's pain or help connect people to their ancestry, it's the least we can do, to make it available," Marshall says.

Hratch Kozibeyokian, a third-generation master weaver and president of the Armenian Rugs Society, says the global Armenian community is slowly realising the power of the story the carpets tell.

"There are only a few places our history is recorded - in our folk songs and our carpets," says Kozibeyokian, who helped decipher the similarities between the Coolidge rug and Kunzler

rug.

But the rugs are unravelling a little-known part of American history, too.

This year, the Western region of the Armenian National Committee of America launched a campaign called America We Thank You: An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief, to pay tribute to the organisation for rescuing Armenian orphans and other survivors of the massacres.

Hratch Kozibeyokian and the Kunzler rug The American Committee for Relief in the Near East pioneered the use of posters in campaigning

Shant Mardirossian, the grandson of survivors and chair of the Near East Foundation's board of directors says the story of the American generosity helps bridge the gap in the dual identities of third and fourth-generation Armenian-Americans. The US is now home to the second largest Armenian population outside Armenia.

"I couldn't be more proud of this history, that Americans who knew nothing about Armenians 8,000 miles away gave something to help them," he says. "In fact, one could even argue a whole generation of Armenians wouldn't be here today had it not been for their support."

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http://www.peashooter85.com/post/70258263334/the-battle-of-stalingrad-and-the-deadly-meat
April 9th 2015, 6:00:45 pm

The Battle of Stalingrad and the Deadly "Meat Paste"

Being a German soldier trapped in Stalingrad was certainly bad. Not only did one have to deal with bullets and bombs, but also frostbite, hypothermia, disease, and vermin. As Soviet soldiers tightened the noose around the German 6th Army, the food situation grew especially desperate. German soldiers were reduced to 1/3 rations. At its worst, bread rations were reduced to 75g (about a slice) a day. It was not uncommon for soldiers to slaughter horses, dogs, or cats for sustenance. Over time soldiers began to suffer the effects of malnutrition with fighting ability greatly diminished due to the lack of energy and nutrition. Sympathizing with the soldiers of Stalingrad, the staff officer Gen. Kurt Zeitzler reduced his own rations to their level. He lost over 26 pounds in two weeks and began to suffer from illness and fatigue. Eventually Adolf Hitler personally ordered Zeitzler to end the diet.

To make up for the lack of calories ingested by the German soldiers at Stalingrad, high command ordered a new type of ration to be airlifted to the troops. Canned meat was a common ration for German soldiers, however a new "meat paste" was developed to give soldiers a great boost of caloric energy. What provided this concentrated energy was a ridiculously high fat content. Sounds appetizing!

As soon as the new rations were distributed, a new phenomenon began to occur. German soldiers began to collapse and die inexplicably. One minute a soldier could be on sentry duty, the next moment he would be found dead with no apparent wounds or trauma. The rising number of these strange deaths baffled German commanders. To investigate the phenomenon, the German Army flew in a pathologist named Dr. Hans Girgensohn. Under very difficult conditions, Dr. Girgensohn performed autopsies on 50 men who had died of

the strange occurrence. After much investigation Dr. Girgensohn pinned the cause of the strange deaths on one culprit; the high fat tinned mystery meat that was being airlifted to the troops. As it turns out, adding a high fat content to the meat was a terrible mistake. Due to the effects of malnutrition, German soldiers at Stalingrad were unable to metabolize the high concentrations of fat within the meat paste. As they continued to consume the meat, vital organs such as the liver, kidneys, and pancreas suffered damage. Eventually, soldiers would collapse and succumb to organ failure.

The meat paste rations were immediately recalled. However the situation in Stalingrad grew even worse. Eventually the Soviet Army prevented all rations from entering the city. On February 2nd, 1943, 110,000 German soldiers surrendered. Most were sent to labor camps all over the Soviet Union. Only 6,000 would ever return home.

XVIII. The Bride From the Under-world

A LEGEND OF THE KALAKAUA FAMILY

KU, one of the most widely known gods of the Pacific Ocean, was thought by the Hawaiians to have dwelt as a mortal for some time on the western side of the island Hawaii. Here he chose a chiefess by the name of Hina as his wife, and to them were born two children. When he withdrew from his residence among men he left a son on the uplands of the district of North Kona, and a daughter on the seashore of the same district. The son, Hiku-i-kana-hele (Hiku of the forest), lived with his mother. The daughter, Kewalu, dwelt under the care of guardian chiefs and priests by a temple, the ruined walls of which are standing even to the present day. Here she was carefully protected and perfected in all arts pertaining to the very high chiefs. Hiku-of-the-Forest was not accustomed to go to the sea. His life was developed among the forests along the western slopes of the great mountains of Hawaii. Here he learned the wisdom of his mother and of the

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chiefs and priests under whose care he was placed. To him were given many of the supernatural powers of his father. His mother guarded him from the knowledge that he had a sister and kept him from going to the temple by the side of which she had her home.

Hiku was proficient in all the feats of manly strength and skill upon which chiefs of the highest rank prided themselves. None of the chiefs of the inland districts could compare with him in symmetry of form, beauty of countenance, and skill in manly sports.

The young chief noted the sounds of the forest and the rushing winds along the sides of the mountains. Sometimes, like storm voices, he heard from far off the beat of the surf along the coral reef. One day he heard a noise like the flapping of the wings of many birds. He looked toward the mountain, but no multitude of his feathered friends could be found. Again the same sound awakened his curiosity. He now learned that it came from the distant seashore far below his home on the mountain-side.

Hiku-of-the-Forest called his mother and together they listened as again the strange sound from the beach rose along the mountain gulches and was echoed among the cliffs.

"E Hiku," said the mother, "that is the clapping of the hands of a large number of men and

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women. The people who live by the sea are very much pleased and are expressing their great delight in some wonderful deed of a great chief."

Day after day the rejoicing of the people was heard by the young chief. At last he sent a trusty retainer to learn the cause of the tumult. The messenger reported that he had found certain tabu surf waters of the Kona beach and had seen a very high chiefess who alone played with her surf-board on the incoming waves. Her beauty surpassed that of any other among all the,

people, and her skill in riding the surf was wonderful, exceeding that of any one whom the people had ever seen, therefore the multitude gathered from near and far to watch the marvelous deeds of the beautiful woman. Their pleasure was so great that when they clapped their hands the sound was like the voices of many thunder-storms.

The young chief said he must go down and see this beautiful maiden. The mother knew that this chiefess of such great beauty must be Kewalu, the sister of Hiku. She feared that trouble would come to Kewalu if her more powerful brother should find her and take her in marriage, as was the custom among the people. The omens which had been watched concerning the children in their infancy had predicted many

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serious troubles. But the young man could not be restrained. He was determined to see the wonderful woman.

He sent his people to gather the nuts of the kukui, or candlenut-tree, and crush out the oil and prepare it for anointing his body. He had never used a surf-board, but he commanded his servants to prepare the best one that could be made. Down to the seashore Hiku went with his retainers, down to the tabu place of the beautiful Kewalu.

He anointed his body with the kukui oil until it glistened like the polished leaves of trees; then taking his surf-board he went boldly to the tabu surf waters of his sister. The people stood in amazed silence, expecting to see speedy punishment meted out to the daring stranger. But the gods of the sea favored Hiku. Hiku had never been to the seaside and had never learned the arts of those who were skilful in the waters. Nevertheless as he entered the water he carried the surf-board more royally than any chief the people had ever known. The sunlight shone in splendor upon his polished body when he stood on the board and rode to the shore on the crests of the highest surf waves, performing wonderful feats by his magic power. The joy of the multitude was unbounded, and a mighty storm of noise was made by the clapping of their hands.

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Kewalu and her maidens had left the beach before the coming of Hiku and were resting in their grass houses in a grove of coconut-trees near the heiau. When the great noise made by the people aroused her she sent one of her friends to learn the cause of such rejoicing. When she learned that an exceedingly handsome chief of the highest rank was sporting among her tabu waters she determined to see him.

So, calling her maidens, she went down to the seashore and first saw Hiku on the highest crest of the rolling surf. She decided at once that she had never seen a man so comely, and Hiku, surf-riding to the shore, felt that he had never dreamed of such grace and beauty as marked the maiden who was coming to welcome him.

When Kewalu came near she took the wreath of rare and fragrant flowers which she wore and coming close to him threw it around his shoulders as a token to all the people that she

had taken him to be her husband.

Then the joy of the people surpassed all the pleasure of all the days before, for they looked upon the two most beautiful beings they had ever seen and believed that these two would make glad each other's lives.

Thus Hiku married his sister, Kewalu, according to the custom of that time, because she was the only one of all the people equal to him in

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rank and beauty, and he alone was fitted to stand in her presence.

For a long time they lived together, sometimes sporting among the highest white crests of storm-tossed surf waves, sometimes enjoying the guessing and gambling games in which the Hawaiians of all times have been very expert, sometimes chanting meles and genealogies and telling marvelous stories of sea and forest, and sometimes feasting and resting under the trees surrounding their grass houses.

Hiku at last grew weary of the life by the sea. He wanted the forest on the mountain and the cold, stimulating air of the uplands. But he did not wish to take his sister-wife with him. Perhaps the omens of their childhood had revealed danger to Kewalu if she left her home by the sea. Whenever he tried to steal away from her she would rush to him and cling to him, persuading him to wait for new sports and joys.

One night Hiku rose up very quietly and passed out into the darkness. As he began to climb toward the uplands the leaves of the trees rustled loudly in welcome. The night birds circled around him and hastened him on his way, but Kewalu was awakened. She called for Hiku. Again and again she called, but Hiku had gone. She heard his footsteps as his eager tread shook the ground. She heard the branches breaking

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as he forced his way through the forests. Then she hastened after him and her plaintive cry was louder and clearer than the voices of the night birds.

"E Hiku, return! E Hiku, return!
O my love, wait for Kewalu!
Hiku goes up the hills;
Very hard is this hill,
O Hiku! O Hiku, my beloved!"

But Hiku by his magic power sent thick fogs and mists around her. She was blinded and chilled, but she heard the crashing of the branches and ferns as Hiku forced his way through them, and she pressed on, still calling:

"E Hiku, beloved, return to Kewalu."

Then the young chief threw the long flexible vines of the ieie down into the path. They twined around her feet and made her stumble as she tried to follow him. The rain was falling all around her, and the way was very rough and hard. She slipped and fell again and again.

The ancient chant connected with the legend says:

"Hiku, is climbing up the hill.
Branches and vines are in the way,
And Kewalu is begging him to stop.
Rain-drops are walking on the leaves.
The flowers are beaten to the ground.
Hopeless the quest, but Kewalu is calling:
'E Hiku, beloved! Let us go back together.'"

Her tears, mingled with the rain, streamed down her cheeks. The storm wet and destroyed

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the kapa mantle which she had thrown around her as she hurried from her home after Hiku. In rags she tried to force her way through the tangled undergrowth of the uplands, but as she crept forward step by step she stumbled and fell again into the cold wet mass of ferns and grasses. Then the vines crept up around her legs and her arms and held her, but she tore them loose and forced her way upward, still calling. She was bleeding where the rough limbs of the trees had torn her delicate flesh. She was so bruised and sore from the blows of the bending branches that she could scarcely creep along.

At last she could no longer hear the retreating footsteps of Hiku. Then, chilled and desolate and deserted, she gave up in despair and crept back to the village. There she crawled into the grass house where she had been so happy with her brother Hiku, intending to put an end to her life.

The ieie vines held her arms and legs, but she partially disentangled herself and wound them around her head and neck. Soon the tendrils grew tight and slowly but surely choked the beautiful chiefess to death. This was the first suicide in the records of Hawaiian mythology. As the body gradually became lifeless the spirit crept upward to the lua-uhane, the door by which

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it passed out of the body into the spirit world. This "spirit-door" is the little hole in the corner of the eye. Out of it the spirit is thought to creep slowly as the body becomes cold in death. The spirit left the cold body a prisoner to the tangled vines, and slowly and sadly journeyed to Milu, the Under-world home of the ghosts of the departed.

The lust of the forest had taken possession of Hiku. He felt the freedom of the swift birds who had been his companions in many an excursion into the heavily shaded depths of the forest jungles. He plunged with abandon into the whirl and rush of the storm winds which he had

called to his aid to check Kewalu. He was drunken with the atmosphere which he had breathed throughout his childhood and young manhood. When he thought of Kewalu he was sure that he had driven her back to her home by the temple, where he could find her when once more he should seek the seashore.

He had only purposed to stay a while on the uplands, and then return to his sister-wife.

His father, the god Ku, had been watching him and had also seen the suicide of the beautiful Kewalu. He saw the spirit pass down to the kingdom of Milu, the home of the ghosts. Then he called Hiku and told him bow heedless and thoughtless he had been in his treatment of

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Kewalu, and how in despair she had taken her life, the spirit going to the Under-world.

Hiku, the child of the forest, was overcome with grief. He was ready to do anything to atone for the suffering he had caused Kewalu, and repair the injury.

Ku told him that only by the most daring effort could he hope to regain his loved bride. He could go to the Under-world, meet the ghosts and bring his sister back, but this could only be done at very great risk to himself, for if the ghosts discovered and captured him they would punish him with severest torments and destroy all hope of returning to the Upper-world.

Hiku was determined to search the land of Milu and find his bride and bring her back to his Kona home by the sea. Ku agreed to aid him with the mighty power which he had as a god, nevertheless it was absolutely necessary that Hiku should descend alone and by his own wit and skill secure the ghost of Kewalu.

Hiku prepared a coconut-shell full of oil made from decayed kukui nuts. This was very vile and foul smelling. Then he made a long stout rope of ieie vines.

Ku knew where the door to the Under-world was, through which human beings could go down. This was a hole near the seashore in the valley of Waipio on the eastern coast of the island.

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Ku and Hiku went to Waipio, descended the precipitous walls of the valley and found the door to the pit of Milu. Milu was the ruler of the Under-world.

Hiku rubbed his body all over with the rancid kukui oil and then gave the ieie vine into the keeping of his father to hold fast while he made his descent into the world of the spirits of the dead. Slowly Ku let the vine down until at last Hiku stood in the strange land of Milu.

No one noticed his coming and so for a little while he watched the ghosts, studying his best method of finding Kewalu. Some of the ghosts were sleeping; some were gambling and playing the same games they had loved so well while living in the Upper-world; others were feasting and visiting around the poi bowl as they had formerly been accustomed to do.

Hiku knew that the strong odor of the rotten oil would be his best protection, for none of the spirits would want to touch him and so would not discover that he was flesh and blood. Therefore he rubbed his body once more thoroughly with the oil and disfigured himself with dirt. As he passed from place to place searching for Kewalu, the ghosts said, "What a bad-smelling spirit!" So they turned away from him as if he was one of the most unworthy ghosts dwelling in Milu. In the realm of Milu he saw the people in the

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game of rolling coconut-shells to hit a post. Kulioe, one of the spirits, had been playing the kilu and had lost all his property to the daughter of Milu and one of her friends. He saw Hiku and said, "If you are a skilful man perhaps you should play with these two girls." Hiku said: "I have nothing. I have only come this day and am alone." Kulioe bet his bones against some of the property he had lost. The first girl threw her cup at the kilu post. Hiku chanted:

Are you known by Papa and Wakea,
O eyelashes or rays of the sun?
Mine is the cup of kilu."

Her cup did not touch the kilu post before Hiku. She threw again, but did not touch, while Hiku chanted the same words. They took a new cup, but failed.

Hiku commenced swinging the cup and threw. It glided and twisted around on the floor and struck the post. This counted five and won the first bet. Then he threw the cup numbered twenty, won all the property and gave it back to Kulioe.

At last he found Kewalu, but she was by the side of the high chief, Milu, who had seen the beautiful princess as she came into the Underworld. More glorious was Kewalu than any other of all those of noble blood who had ever

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descended to Milu. The ghosts had welcomed the spirit of the princess with great rejoicing, and the king had called her at once to the highest place in his court.

She had not been long with the chiefs of Milu before they asked her to sing or chant her mele. The mele was the family song by which any chief made known his rank and the family with which he was connected, whenever he visited chiefs far away from his own home.

Hiku heard the chant and mingled with the multitude of ghosts gathered around the place where the high chiefs were welcoming the spirit of Kewalu.

While Hiku and Kewalu had been living together one of their pleasures was composing and learning to intone a chant which no other among either mortals or spirits should know besides themselves.

While Kewalu was singing she introduced her part of this chant. Suddenly from among the throng of ghosts arose the sound of a clear voice chanting the response which was known by

no other person but Hiku.

Kewalu was overcome by the thought that perhaps Hiku was dead and was now among the ghosts, but did not dare to incur the hatred of King Milu by making himself known; or perhaps Hiku had endured many dangers of the

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lower world by coming even in human form to find her and therefore must remain concealed.

The people around the king, seeing her grief, were not surprised when she threw a mantle around herself and left them to go away alone into the shadows.

She wandered from place to place among the groups of ghosts, looking for Hiku. Sometimes she softly chanted her part of the mele. At last she was again answered and was sure that Hiku was near, but the only one very close was a foul-smelling, dirt-covered ghost from whom she was turning away in despair.

Hiku in a low tone warned her to be very careful and not recognize him, but assured her that he had come in person to rescue her and take her back to her old home where her body was then lying. He told her to wander around and yet to follow him until they came to the ieie vine which he had left hanging from the hole which opened to the Upper-world.

When Hiku came to the place where the vine was hanging he took hold to see if Ku, his father, was still carefully guarding the other end to pull him up when the right signal should be given. Having made himself sure of the aid of the god, he tied the end of the vine into a strong loop and seated himself in it. Then he began to swing back and forth, back and forth, sometimes rising

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high and sometimes checking himself and resting with his feet on the ground.

Kewalu came near and begged to be allowed to swing, but Hiku would only consent on the condition that she would sit in his lap.

The ghosts thought that this would be an excellent arrangement and shouted their approval of the new sport. Then Hiku took the spirit of Kewalu in his strong arms and began to swing slowly back and forth, then more and more rapidly, higher and higher until the people marvelled at the wonderful skill. Meanwhile he gave the signal to Ku to pull them up. Almost imperceptibly the swing receded from the spirit world.

All this time Hiku had been gently and lovingly rubbing the spirit of Kewalu and softly uttering charm after charm so that while they were swaying in the air she was growing smaller and smaller. Even the chiefs of Milu had been attracted to this unusual sport, and had drawn near to watch the wonderful skill of the strange foul-smelling ghost.

Suddenly it dawned upon some of the beholders that the vine was being drawn up to the

Upper-world. Then the cry arose: "He is stealing the woman!" "He is stealing the woman!"

The Under-world was in a great uproar of noise. Some of the ghosts were leaping as high

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as they could, others were calling for Hiku to return, and others were uttering charms to cause his downfall.

No one could leap high enough to touch Hiku, and the power of all the charms was defeated by the god Ku, who rapidly drew the vine upward.

Hiku succeeded in charming the ghost of Kewalu into the coconut-shell which he still carried. Then stopping the opening tight with his fingers so that the spirit could not escape he brought Kewalu back to the land of mortals.

With the aid of Ku the steep precipices surrounding Waipio Valley were quickly scaled and the journey made to the temple by the tabu surf waters of Kona. Here the body of Kewalu had been lying in state. Here the auwe, or mourning chant, of the retinue of the dead princess could be heard from afar.

Hiku passed through the throngs of mourners, carefully guarding his precious coconut until he came to the feet, cold and stiff in death. Kneeling down he placed the small hole in the end of the shell against the tender spot in the bottom of one of the cold feet.

The spirits of the dead must find their way back little by little through the body from the feet to the eyes, from which they must depart when they bid final farewell to the world. To try to send the spirit back into the body by

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placing it in the lua-uhane, or "door of the soul," would be to have it where it had to depart from the body rather than enter it.

Hiku removed his finger from the hole in the coconut and uttered the incantations which would allure the ghost into the body. Little by little the soul of Kewalu came back, and the body grew warm from the feet upward, until at last the eyes opened and the soul looked out upon the blessed life restored to it by the skill and bravery of Hiku.

No more troubles arose to darken the lives of the children of Ku. Whether in the forest or by the sea they made the days pleasant for each other until at the appointed time together they entered the shades of Milu as chief and chiefess who could not be separated. It is said that the generations of their children gave many rulers to the Hawaiians, and that the present royal family, the "House of Kalakaua," is the last of the descendants.

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APPEARANCE - SPECIAL ABILITIES - TERRITORY
HABITAT/BEHAVIOUR - DIET - MATING - USAGES - MYTH/LORE - RESEARCHERS

The Caladrius (the plural form is "Caladrius" as well) is a snow white bird that is usually about one fore tall from head to feet. They are known for their exotic song and stunning beauty. They are one of the more intelligent breeds of birds, even been known to learn several simple voice and sign commands, mostly to amplify their beauty. These birds are originally found in the wild, flying in the areas around the Bolder Forest, but are often kept in captivity by humans, though they are extremly friendly to elves.

Appearance. From their slender talons to the top of their shining white heads, the Caladrius are about one foretall, and from their chest to the tip of their fanning tail, about 4 palmspans. The wingspan of these gentle birds is about 2 fores

. They are smaller than their cousins the Taedrius. These birds are not only bigger, but also more mysterious. They are also white but it is rumoured that a black Taedrius has been seen in the Thaelon, believed to be the "King of the Taedrius ", of course this has never been proven and is assumed to mere myth.

The plumage of the Caladrius is a brilliant white, kept this way through almost continuous preening. Their feathers are constantly being moulted and replaced to keep their familiar 'glow'. Along with this preening, the Caladrius calls upon the help of the myrmex. They will lie by a nest, with a gift of food, and sing. The myrmex will proceed to exit the nest and climb onto the Caladrius. The myrmex will then preen the bird themselves. They squirt oil on to the feathers to keep them shiny and strong. The common myrmex do this, but the delver myrmex have not been known to do this. This careful care of their feathers gives the birds a shine worth the effort. To see their feathers shimmering in the sunlight is said to be a most beautiful thing. Though they are pleasing to the eye, the Caladrius are not to the touch. Their feathers are hard and rough, an unusual attribute, but necessary to keep their luminescent radiance.

The Caladrius has deep, black eyes that gleam in the light. The contrast of this and their white feathers only furthers their beauty. The colour of their feet and beaks differ between genders. The males have orange beaks and yellow feet, radiating like the sun, whereas the beaks and feet of the females are black.

Special Abilities

. In the wild the Caladrius will find a mate and stay with them for life. Because of this they acquire a strange, extra sense about their partner. They seem to respond to their partner's emotional state. If its partner is in trouble, a Caladrius will rush to aid. If one is unhappy the other will try to comfort it by singing. And when they are happy they want to be together to celebrate their joy.

When held in captivity a Caladrius chooses its keeper as a partner, but since this bird would always prefer another Caladrius as its partner, they must be kept away from all other Caladrius birds. If they remain partner to their owner, they retain the same abilities as they have for another Caladrius, and respond to the keeper's emotional state similarly.

The Caladrius has an extremely beautiful song. It is rumoured to be most beautiful when a great sadness is on their heart. Their song is their life. They sing on all occasions: happiness, sadness, anger, fear and love. Of course these songs all differ, as does their beauty.

Territory

. Most Caladrius are seen in captivity and are rarely seen in the wild. Though they are found mostly in the Santharian province of Vardýnn, they can also be seen throughout most of the kingdom because they are traded to people who can afford them for their special ability. During most of the day the Caladrius flies around a forest, and rests in the forest. When it wishes to sleep it enters the forest, for a high branch to sleep on.

When kept in captivity, the Caladrius has to be kept in a large aviary, filled with plants, for exercise and sleep. When the Caladrius is released from its aviary it instantly flies to its owner, who it stays with for most of the day. Because of the special ability of the Caladrius, it costs quite a lot of money and so is usually only owned by people in power such as nobles and successful mages.

Habitat/Behaviour

. Caladrius love to show off. They are often seen standing in the sunlight basking in their own magnificence. Everyday they awake early and sing as the sun rises. It is the Taedrius that sings when the sun sets. It is unknown why this is so, but the legend is that they call the sun to spread light so they may be seen, and to farewell it to night, so it will grant them the same favour tomorrow. Because of their obsession with flaunting their beauty, the Caladrius is a friendly bird, rarely shirking from humans, elves etc.

When kept in captivity, the Caladrius is often taught one or two tricks, but these are usually only to show off their beauty in different ways. This is because they don't have the desire to do much else.

One of the most important moments in a Caladrius' life is the choosing of a mate. When a Caladrius chooses one, it stays with it for the rest of its life. They then do everything together, hunt together, bask together and sing together. When the couple's egg hatches, and the young emerges, they then join this family, until a partner of their own is found. When a mate dies the Caladrius mourns for days on end, singing a song that brings tears to the eyes of everyone who hears it. This Caladrius will never again seek out another mate, choosing to live alone. This companionship makes the Caladrius ideal for captivity. If caught before a partner is found, the Caladrius will eventually join with its owner. The relationship isn't the same as in the wild, it lacks the strength of true companionship, but the bird is still besotted with its owner. It is because of this commitment that the old proverb "as loyal as a Caladrius" is said.

Diet

. The Caladrius is omnivorous. It will hunt for insects, frogs, small lizards and small rodents, as well as feed on seeds, fruit and nuts. It will usually start feeding with a hunt and then forage. When working with a partner, the Caladrius' efficiency is much higher. One, usually the male, will shepherd the target, while the other, the female, will fly high into the canopy, so not to be seen, and when almost on top of it, swoop.

When kept in captivity the birds enjoy eating the same things, but it is not feasible to allow them to hunt all the time, so they are usually fed dead food. Their favourites are such fruit as the hearthberry, thought to remind it of the sun, and the kyck-kyck frog.

Mating

. The Caladrius will only ever mate with its partner in spring. They prefer early spring, but if food is too scarce they have been known to wait whole months, until food is plentiful. They start by gathering twigs, bark and leaves, to build a nest. Only once the nest is finished do the birds proceed to mate. They have also been known to find a tree hollow, instead of a nest. Once the nest is made, both of the birds take wing, and soar through the air, working together to display their beauty. They then join in the air.

After this, both are exhausted from their aerial acrobatics, and sleep for the rest of the day. When they wake, beneath the female is a single egg. They then take turns to lie on it, while the other hunts. This is the only time when a partnered Caladrius will hunt alone. After four to five weeks the egg will hatch. The chick has pure black down, the opposite beauty to its parents. Soon the young Caladrius will do everything the parents do, singing to the sun, foraging and hunting, and basking in the light. They will reach full maturity within a year, but will stay with its parents until a partner is found.

Usages. The main use of the Caladrius is entertainment. Their beauty, to both eye and ear, capture the hearts of many. All of the myth shrouding them persuades people to keep them in captivity. Because of their specific area and high maintenance, and high cost, the Caladrius tend to be exclusively for the rich.

Myth/Lore

. The union of the Caladrius is like marriage, and it is said that any who breaks this bond will destroy their own chances for love. Either they will never marry, or their marriage will break down. The killing or capturing of a partnered Caladrius is said to carry a great curse. In the event of a killing the penalty is even worse, the murderer is cursed with a life without beauty, never again may they look upon anything handsome.

The song of the Caladrius is said to speak to the sun. When it is unhappy so is the sun, and when it is joyous the sun shines with a brighter light. Those that hear it are blessed with a day full of pure sun, to see the true beauty of everything. For this reason the rich often keep at least one, so that their life may be full of beauty.

. The main researcher of the Caladrius was Alverin Silaon (631-467 b.S.) of the Meldarhim. He shirked his tribes herding responsibilities to travel through many forests studying birds and animals. Mesmerised by their beauty, he decided to further study them. He first saw them in the Bolder Forest, but also studied the Taedrius from Thaelon Forest. His research has made it possible to keep the Caladrius in captivity successfully. He also provided the Compendium researchers with

most of the information contained here. He discovered almost all the prior information. The following is an excerpt from Alverin's journals:

"After studying the Caladrius in the wild I have come to respect these birds. I started my research with simply watching the Caladrius in the Bolder Forest. Their beauty mesmerized me, leaving me staring for hours. The feathers were whiter than the purest Cyhalloi. I often heard their song, but never saw from what it came from, and so I knew not what made this splendour. This song was always most beautiful at sunrise at which it seem they always sang. It wasn't until I had captured one and actually seen it sing that I truly knew all of their beauty.

My first attempts at capturing a Caladrius had always failed. I only realize why this was until much later. I eventually caught a Caladrius successfully, and named it 'Aelién'aváth', white beauty. It was from this bird that I discovered most of my research. Over time it befriended me, and I soon realised that I had become its partner. Amazing! This was a major discovery.

When my research was completed I set out to Voldar. With my research and Aelién'aváth with me I met many people informing them about my discoveries. At first they were sceptic, but when they saw Aelién'aváth they knew I told the truth. The beauty to eye and ear eventually spread their popularity. It was then that I was enlightened about the Taedrius in the Thaelon Forest. This intrigued me, but I had felt that I had outstayed my welcome in this region, and I was a little home sick, and so I returned to Northern Sarvonia with Aelién'aváth."

-- Alverin Silaon: "Caladrius: White Beauty"

Information provided by Mannix

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Brea Tremblay

Sovereign citizens believe they don't have to pay taxes because their name isn't punctuated or capitalized correctly. Some of them even believe the government owes them $630,000. Sound crazy? My dad was one of them.

At this very moment, people across America are doing their taxes and discovering they owe more money than they have. And the majority of those people are reacting to the news in a normal fashion, which is to say, they're setting up a payment plan, begging a relative or ordering a beer they can't afford and putting the bill off until next year.

But a small portion are discovering an ideology that claims their tax bill is entirely invalid because IRS correspondence is written in all capital letters, which means it's addressed to a legal entity which shares your name but is not you, and in fact, the government owes you money—at least $630,000.

This is "Sovereign Citizen" logic, as heady, cheap and rotten as a box of wine left out in the sun.

I first encountered Sovereign Citizen when I was a kid. We'd landed in Black Forest, Colorado, which today has been gentrified into a nice little bedroom community for Colorado Springs. Back then, it still housed pockets of fringier folks.

Our neighbors across the way looked normal—they lived in a well-maintained ranch house with an aboveground hot tub that I coveted desperately and a neat little stable, housing a few healthy, glossy horses. It was all perfectly benign until they casually dropped into conversation that the horses were for transport when the revolution came.

The neighbors to the west were either a very strangely configured family or a cult. Sometimes, when we passed the turnoff to their compound, Mom would sigh, "I just hope they're not the type to blow themselves up like that one cult in Texas."

To be fair, they probably thought the same thing about us. We were living in a failed church, a loosely connected collection of prefab buildings that some lunatics had plopped into the woods in the late 1960s with the intent of remaking Catholicism or something. No one really knew the details. The chapel had blue shag carpet.

Dad had moved us out there full of promise. We were going to take the failed church and remake it in our image, renovate it into something glorious.

"Just look at this land," he said. "This is the land for a forever home."

Unfortunately, my family was to construction as the U.S. is to nation building, which is to say fucking awesome at destruction and not so great at rebuilding.

We tore down staircases and cut open the roof. We dug up the floor and punched out the windows. And then we ran out of money.

Dad hung tarps and dropcloths over the holes and went quiet and hunched when we complained about the wet and the dirt.

Then one day, he strutted into the house and ordered us to unpack his truckbed, which was packed with all of the supplies we so desperately needed—drywall and lumber, tile and great plastic buckets of paint.

"Where did it come from?" I asked, my voice hushed in awe as if beholding a cave full of treasure.

"Well, you see, they told me about this law," Dad started. He'd been talking to our neighbors apparently and they'd opened his eyes to natural rights and public land and personhood and told him about a Congressional act of 1933 and the gold standard and maritime law, which was particularly confusing because we lived in landlocked Colorado.

Years later, I would recognize his spiel as Sovereign Citizen rhetoric and sift through it to the details. Dad "found" the materials "left over" on a construction site that was on "public" land and as a "natural" citizen, it was his "legal" right to take it.

It didn't make sense, what he was saying, but I nodded along because I wanted it to be true.

The Southern Poverty Law Center estimates there are about 300,000 Americans who define themselves as sovereign citizens, of which 100,000 are hardcore and 200,000 are more casual, hobbyist types. The most radical are definitely dangerous. In February, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI circulated a report to law enforcement about the growing threat of domestic terrorism, citing 24 violent attacks across the country by sovereign citizen-afflicted extremists since 2010, including the shooting deaths of two cops in 2010 and two sheriff's deputies in 2012.

It should be noted that while I am using the term "sovereign citizen" to represent the entire movement—like the government and independent watchdog organizations do—sovereign citizens do not consider themselves to be a singular group. They're also known as living souls, natural persons, the Freemen, the Moorish Nation, freemen-on-the-land, Freemen of Free Freedom. (I made that last one up.) And they do have differences. Some splinter groups are more gun-happy than others. Some are very racist and anti-Semitic, others less so. Some groups are religious but most aren't.

They do share a common ancestor, a group of elderly Hitler-lovers in the Pacific Northwest in the late 1960s who called themselves the Posse Comitatus. The Posse was notable for three reasons:

The first is that one of the founders, Henry Lamont Beach, was a retired dry cleaner. He spent his life tending stained clothes and getting yelled at by grumpy customers. It's not exactly the circle of hell a self-proclaimed Nazi sympathizer deserved, but it's a start.

Second, the Posse Comitatus pioneered a kind of paperwork warfare unlike anything ever seen before—they were the early kings of frivolous lawsuits, obsessed with clogging the legal system with constant false liens, letters of credit, and property claims.

Third, this group of frustrated, ranting old men somehow birthed an ideological movement that continues to grow and evolve. Their ideological decedents don't always agree on the details but the general gist of their worldview is that the laws that govern us have all been invalid from the moment Lincoln declared martial law during the Civil War. Or when the 14th Amendment was ratified. Or when the government abandoned the gold standard in the 1930s.

Whenever it was, the true government was replaced by a sham operation, which uses maritime law, corporate personhood, and the Uniform Commercial Code to justify using U.S. citizens as collateral to the Federal Reserve.

In order to do so, the federal government has to create a corporate shell legal person for each natural man—this separate entity, sovereign citizens believe, is called a strawman. The strawman is created by a birth certificate—a receipt for the Federal Reserve, according to the sovereigns—in which the strawman is given a name that will be used to track this legal person throughout the lifetime of the natural person, but remains wholly separate from the natural person.

Confused? Let this video clear it up. Fair warning: The video opens with a minute and 46 seconds of the red pill scene from *The Matrix*:

Sovereign citizens are more concerned with pedantic semantics than your most passive aggressive ex. They have to be—they believe they can only be governed through consent, and consent can be given through something as seemingly innocuous as using a ZIP Code or responding to a name written in all CAPS.

> Why that specific number—$630,000—is deposited is not clear. After looking into Elvick's work, that number just appears to be the preference of the supposed "secret Jewish cabal" that controls the world's money.

In Sovereign Citizen lore, if your name is John Smith and you receive a letter, or bill, addressed to JOHN SMITH, you should ignore it, because that's clearly meant for your strawman. Names with titles like Mr. John Smith or Dr. John Smith are also addressed to the strawman. Responding as the actual person to mail addressed to the strawman requires punctuation gymnastics that would make E.E. Cummings blush—John Smith might be stylized as John:Smith. Anti-tax Sovereign batshit activist David Wynn Miller spells his natural name as :David-Wynn: Miller. (Check out the punctuation on his site in general. It's amazing.) Michigan militia leader and self-declared sovereign citizen Mark Koernke writes his name "Mark Gregory,, Koernke" (PDF).

Legal documents like tax bills, court notices, driver's licenses and property deeds are all addressed to the strawman. The actual human person is exempt from anything related to the strawman, like a tax bill. The IRS is hip to this practice—their document refuting sovereign

citizen arguments reads like an extended eye roll (PDF). The document opens with:

The Internal Revenue Service (Service) is aware that some taxpayers are claiming that they are not subject to federal income tax, or that their income is excluded from taxation, because: 1) the taxpayers have declared that they have rejected or renounced United States citizenship because the taxpayers are citizens exclusively of a State (sometimes characterized as a "natural-born citizen" of a "sovereign state"); or 2) the taxpayers claim they are not persons as identified by the Internal Revenue Code.

These claims are dismissed by Page 2:

Any argument that a taxpayer's income is excluded from taxation because: 1) the taxpayer has rejected or renounced United States citizenship because the taxpayer is a citizen exclusively of a State (sometime characterized as a "natural-born citizen" of a "sovereign state"); or 2) the taxpayer is not a person as defined by the Internal Revenue Code and is, therefore, not subject to federal tax, has no merit and is frivolous.

The next eight pages detail exactly how, and with which form, the IRS will come after any attempt to use any of said arguments, including an immediate $5,000 fine for a frivolous return, on top of whatever else they determine you owe.

Many sovereign citizens skip filing returns altogether but occasionally, they get in trouble for filing far too many. My personal favorite of these cases includes former child star-turned-orthodontist Glenn Unger, sentenced in 2013 to eight years for filing over $36 million worth of false returns. My dad should have really upped his game—trucks full of construction supplies just seem so paltry by comparison.

Sovereign citizens who file these outlandish returns usually subscribe to something called the Redemption Movement, an idea pitched by Roger Elvick in the 1980s. Elvick espoused the belief that when the federal government grants a birth certificate, they create the strawman associated with the real human at the same moment—and also deposit $630,000 into the strawman's account. The big, mean government and Federal Reserve draw on this cash without the citizen even knowing about it, but "enlightened" sovereigns can access the cash for themselves by filing sight drafts or obscure forms along with their return. Naturally, Elvick spent most of the 1990s in federal prison for filing over $1 million in fraudulent returns and sight drafts.

Why that specific number—$630,000—is deposited is not clear. After looking into Elvick's work, that number just appears to be the preference of the supposed "secret Jewish cabal" that controls the world's money. For what it's worth, when Elvick was indicted a second time, the judge declared him mentally unfit. He was sent to a mental health care facility and treated for nine months before he was competent to stand trial.

I reached out to the IRS for more detail on their sovereign citizen. Spokesperson Ubon Mendie sent over a document called "The Truth About Frivolous Tax Arguments." The 69-page report was released in February and appears to be an attempt at preemptively shutting down idiotic arguments—each section summarizes the argument they anticipate, why it's

wrong and the court cases that back the IRS up. Sovereign ideas feature prominently

The idea that one can claim sovereignty is dismissed early, with 18 court cases cited. The claim that a taxpayer is "not a 'person'" is also thrown out in eight cases. The Redemption Movement is, of course, also dismissed. One section mentions the strawman idea specifically, stating it evolved from a "frivolous position under which a secret bank account (sometimes referred to as a "straw man" account) was supposedly created at the Treasury Department for each US citizen that individuals could use to pay tax and non-tax debts and claim withholding credits. Those who put forth this theory often argue that the proper way to redeem or draw on the account is to use some form of made-up financial instrument."

Made-up financial instrument? IRS burn. The attitude continues.

"Courts have characterized this theory as 'implausible,' 'clearly nonsense,' 'convoluted,' and 'peculiar,'" the report says.

The marvel of sovereign reasoning is the belief that the entire system—the vast and interwoven institutional underpinnings that have been crafted to strip them of their freedom—can be defeated through their personal cleverness. For example, here's a talking tree frog explaining the cheat codes for making the U.S. court system your bitch:

For the record, there are no proven instances of these arguments actually working. But there are many, many YouTube videos of people trying and failing hard. For example, check out this clip of a young man attempting to claim sovereignty. He's first met with bemusement from a patient bailiff and then a taser by an irritated one.

According to *Police Magazine,* this kid put the video online himself, certain the people would rise up with him. He has, so far, been met with only snickers from *Police Magazine*'s online commentators.

The tree frog legal advice video, by the way, was produced by Sovereign Filing Solutions, your one-stop shop for personal emancipation. They'll sell you any product you need, from how-to guides to pseudo-legal red stamps. For $1,000, they claim they can get you out of your child support payments.

Sovereign Filing Solutions also offers phone consultations. Naturally, I signed up for a session. Unfortunately, they never called, no matter how often I tried to get them on the line. On their website, they note that they cannot be held legally liable for their advice. They also quote Gandhi (!) and note that they don't condone violence.

Should Sovereign Filing Solutions never call me, I could become a self-certified lawyer. Sovereign "law school" Erwin Rommel School of Law sells "THE WHOLE ENCHILADA: Seven Complete Training Packages for 'Lawyerless Litigators'" for $2,164 retail, $1,499 discount. The package includes *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu for $15, Erwin Rommel School of Law [Vol. 1], Son of Erwin Rommel [Vol. 2, 750 pages], and Blackstone Institute's 1914 Law Course ("The complete original 1914 course of study for those preparing to practice law. Covers both Common Law and Statutory Law. Before the law became corrupted.")

That's a lot of books to read, though, when Tools for Freedom will sell you a two-DVD "Complete Guide to Sovereignty." While you're on the site, you can also pick up a pamphlet called "How I Clobbered Every Bureaucratic Cash-Confiscatory Agency Known to Man" and anti-radiation tablets. The Aware Group offered a package to help you redeem your $630,000 strawman account for the low, low cost of $995 until the State of Carolina stepped in (PDF).

According to a particularly sassy judgment against a sovereign citizen in a Canadian court, these products are the point of the movement. Associate Chief Justice John D. Rooke defined the sovereign arguments as "Organized Pseudolegal Commercial Arguments" (OPCA) and declared that:

OPCA arguments are never sold to their customers as simple ideas, but instead are byzantine schemes, which more closely resemble the plot of a dark fantasy novel than anything else. Latin maxims and powerful sounding language are often used. Documents are often ornamented with many strange marking and seals. Litigants engage in peculiar, ritual-like in court conduct. All these features appear necessary for gurus to market OPCA schemes to their often desperate, ill-informed, mentally disturbed, or legally abusive customers. This is crucial to understand the non-substance of any OPCA concept or strategy. The story and process of a OPCA scheme is not intended to impress or convince the Courts, *but rather to impress the guru's customer.*

The IRS's report puts it more bluntly. In the section devoted to "untaxing" packages, they call out "Promoters who sell such tax evasion plans and supposedly teach individuals how to remove themselves from the federal tax system rely on many of the above-described frivolous arguments." Then they describe—with brutal efficiency—the failed court cases of 14 promoters, their judgments a paper trail of trophies meant to ward off anyone stupid enough to believe Sovereign Citizen arguments.

As an adult, I don't know how I could have ever been that stupid myself, how I could have imagined that it might be fine to take those "public" construction supplies. But when my dad brought them home, he looked hopeful for once. All of the stress that had been gathering in tightness around his eyes washed away in a flood of pseudo-legal gibberish and a new way out of the disappointing, leaking mess we'd made of our lives.

It was, of course, all bullshit. The cops showed up at our hovel a few weeks later. And we deserved what we got, painted into a corner by our own arrogance. But there is something still so sad about it—these crackpot theories that preach that the system is escapable, defeated by self-determination and know-how and pluck, only to dissolve into just a colorful con—this particular Matrix just a story to sell some red pills.

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THE DECEIVING OF KEWA

A poem, or mourning chant, of the Maoris of New Zealand has many references to the deeds of their ancestors in Hawaiki, which in this case surely has reference to the Hawaiian Islands. Among the first lines of this poem is the expression, "Kewa was deceived." An explanatory note is given which covers almost two pages of the journal of the Polynesian Society in which the poem is published. In this note the outline of the story of the deceiving of Kewa is quite fully translated, and is substantially the same as "The Bride from the Under-world."

"The Deceiving of Kewa," as the New Zealand story is called, has this record among the Maoris. "This narrative is of old, of ancient times, very, very old. 'The Deceiving of Kewa' is an old, old story." Milu in some parts of the Pacific is the name of the place where the spirits of the dead dwell. Sometimes it is the name of the ruler of that place. In this ancient New Zealand legend it takes the place of Hiku, and is the name of the person who goes down into the depths after his bride, while the spirit-king is called Kewa, a part of the name Kewalu, which was the name of the Hawaiian bride whose ghost was brought back from the grave.

This, then, is the New Zealand legend, "The Deceiving of Kewa." There once lived in Hawaiki a chief and his wife. They had a child, a girl, born to them; then the mother died. The chief took another wife, who was not pleasing 1- the people. His anger was so great that the chief went away to the great forest of Tane (the god Kane in Hawaiian), and there built a house for himself and his wife.

After a time a son was born to them and the father named him Miru. This father was a great tohunga (kahuna), or

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priest, as well as a chief. He taught Miru all the supreme kinds of knowledge, all the invocations and incantations, those for the stars, for the winds, for foods, for the sea, and for the land. He taught him the peculiar incantations which would enable him to meet all cunning tricks and enmities of man. He learned also all the great powers of witchcraft. It is said that on one occasion Miru and his father went to a river, a great river. Here the child experimented with his powerful charms. He was a child of the forest and knew the charm which could conquer the trees. Now there was a tall tree growing by the side of the river. When Miru saw it he recited his incantations. As he came to the end the tree fell, the head reaching right across the river. They left the tree lying in this way that it might be used as a bridge by the people who came to the river. Thus he was conscious of his power to correctly use the mighty invocations which his father had taught him.

The years passed and the boy became a young man. His was a lonely life, and he often wondered if there were not those who could be his companions. At last he asked his parents: "Are we here, all of us? Have I no other relative in the world?"

His parents answered, "You have a sister, but she dwells at a distant place."

When Miru heard this he arose and proceeded to search for his sister, and he happily came to the very place where she dwelt. There the young people were gathered in their customary place for playing teka (Hawaiian keha). The teka was a dart which was thrown along the ground, usually the hard beach of the seashore. Miru watched the game for some time and then returned to his home in the forest. He told his father about the teka and the way it was played. Then the chief prepared a teka for Miru, selected from the best tree and fashioned while appropriate charms were repeated.

Miru threw his dart along the slopes covered by the forest and its underbrush, but the ground was uneven and the undergrowth retarded the dart. Then Miru found a plain and practised until he was very expert.

After a while he came to the place where his sister lived. When the young people threw their darts he threw his. Aha! it flew indeed and was lost in the distance, When the sister beheld him she at once felt a great desire toward him.

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The people tried to keep Miru with them, pleading with him to stay, and even following him as he returned to his forest home , but they caught him not. Frequently he repeated his visits, but never stayed long.

The sister, whose name is not given in the New Zealand legends, was disheartened, and hanged herself until she was dead. The body was laid in its place for the time of wailing. Miru and his father came to the uhunga, or place of mourning. The people had not known that Miru was the brother of the one who was dead. They welcomed the father and son according to their custom. Then the young man said, "After I leave, do not bury my sister." So the body was left in its place when the young man arose.

He went on his way till he saw a canoe floating. He then gave the command to his companions and they all paddled away in the canoe. They paddled on for a long distance, in fact to Rerenga-wai-rua, the point of land in New Zealand from which the spirits of the dead take their last leap as they go down to the Under-world. When they reached this place they rested, and Miru let go the anchor. He then said to his companions, "When you see the anchor rope shaking, pull it up, but wait here for me."

The young man then leaped into the water and went down, down near the bottom, and then entered a cave. This cave was the road by which the departed spirits went to spirit-land. Miru soon saw a house standing there. It was the home of Kewa, the chief of the Under-world. Within the house was his sister in spirit form.

Miru carried with him his nets which were given magic power with which he hoped to catch the spirit of his sister. In many ways he endeavored to induce her ghost to come forth from the house of Kewa, but she would not come. He commenced whipping his top in the yard outside, but could not attract her attention. At last he set up a swing and many of the ghosts

joined in the pastime. For a long time the sister remained within, but eventually came forth induced by the attraction of the swing and by the appearance of Miru. Miru then took the spirit in his arms and began to swing.

Higher and higher they rose whilst he incited the ghosts to increase to the utmost the flight of the moari, or swing. On reaching the highest point he gathered the spirit of the sister into his net, then letting go the swing away they flew and alighted quite outside the spirit-land.

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Thence he went to the place where the anchor of the floating canoe was. Shaking the rope his friends understood the signal. He was drawn up with the ghost in his net. He entered the canoe and returned home. On arrival at the settlement the people were still lamenting. What was that to him? Taking the spirit he laid it on the dead body, at the same time reciting his incantations. The spirit gradually entered the body and the sister was alive again. This is the end of the narrative, but it is of old, of ancient times, very, very old. "The Deceiving of Kewa" is an old, old story.

In the Maori poem in which the reference to Kewa is made which brought out the above translation of one of the old New Zealand stories are also many other references to semi-historical characters and events. At the close of the poem is the following note: "The lament is so full of references to the ancient history of the Maoris that it would take a volume to explain them all. Most of the incidents referred to occurred in Hawaiki before the migration of the Maoris to New Zealand or at least five hundred to six hundred years ago."

Another New Zealand legend ought to be noticed in connection with the Hawaiian story of Hiku (Miru, New Zealand) seeking his sister in the Under-world. In what is probably the more complete Hawaiian story Hiku had a magic arrow which flew long distances and led him to the place where his sister-wife could be found.

In a New Zealand legend a magic dart leads a chief by the name of Tama in his search for his wife, who had been carried away to spirit-land. He threw the dart and followed it from place to place until he found a wrecked canoe, near which lay the body of his wife and her companions. He tried to bring her back to life, but his incantations were not strong enough to release the spirit.

Evidently the Hawaiian legend became a little fragmentary while being transplanted from the Hawaiian Islands to New Zealand. Hiku, the young chief who overcomes Miru of the spirit-world, loses his name entirely. Kewalu, the sister, also loses her name, a part of which, Kewa, is given to the ruler of the Under-world, and the magic dart is placed in the hands of Tama in an entirely distinct legend which still keeps the thought of the wife-seeker. There can scarcely be any question but that the original legend belongs to the Hawaiian Islands, and was carried to New Zealand in the days of the sea-rovers.

{p. 245}

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THE DEVIL AND MERCY MINISTRIES: A CONVERSATION WITH CHELSEA DARHOWER

Make Mercy Ministries Be Honest change.org

http://www.dysgenics.com/2015/05/04/the-devil-and-mercy-ministries-a-conversation-with-chelsea-darhower/

> ... *And this girl had been in the program for maybe a month, a few weeks, I don't know, not very long. And we knew she had been diagnosed with multiple personalities. […] Well we knew, you know, a psychiatrist is not going to say somebody has multiple demons. But in her case that's what we were dealing with, demonic powers.* — ***Nancy Alcorn,*** *president and founder of* ***Mercy Ministries***

Recovered Memory Therapy, Conversion Therapy, and exorcisms: this mishmash of harmful pseudoscience and archaic religious practice is foisted on the vulnerable young women at Mercy Ministries by their under-educated, inexperienced mental health care-givers. During her stay, former resident Chelsea Darhower experienced first hand the oppression and cult-like atmosphere that has made Mercy Ministries infamous among many of its graduates.
Here is her story:

Beth: …No one at Mercy Ministries has the authority to diagnose – can you confirm that that's the case? At other clinics the girls and women risk coming out with a diagnosis that haunts them the rest of their lives.
Chelsea: Nobody at Mercy Ministries has the authority to diagnose. The only time a girl would come in contact with a doctor at Mercy Ministries is for three reasons.
1. She goes completely postal and is dropped off at a psychiatric ward.

2. She comes in on psychiatric drugs and she is sent to a psychiatrist. Even then the psychiatrist they would send her to doesn't diagnose, he just writes scripts.

3. They have a outside family doctor that deals with medical incidences.

In general though, Mercy Ministries is very anti-psychiatry so you will not see them adding any type of diagnosis to anyone. They like to distance girls from the psychiatric world and any type of future

help, not give them new diagnoses.

If you say the words "I was diagnosed with DID", a staff member will get its wings at Mercy Ministries.

Nancy Alcorn may get jolly over the prospect of having someone who was diagnosed as "DID" in the psychiatry world, but that's only because she thinks they are possessed by spirits that she has to take authority over. If you say the words "I was diagnosed with DID", a staff member will get its wings at Mercy Ministries. She thinks your "parts" are evil spirits that infested your soul while you were being abused.

[A]ny potential for biblical counseling to be compared with the liberationist anti-psychiatry movement of R.D. Laing in Britain or Szasz's less fruitful attempts in the United States falls flat. Biblical counseling, far from being against social control, is an agent of social control, by which evangelical churches seek to minimize dissent among those members deemed mentally ill or deviant. — John Weaver, The Failure of Evangelical Mental Health Care: Treatments That Harm Women, LGBT Persons and the Mentally Ill

Beth: So, it sounds like Mercy is more about convincing the clients they were abused? The false memory element more than Dissociative Identity Disorder[DID]?

Chelsea: For me, before I went in there, providers thought that maybe I was abused and I told Mercy Ministries this. And that's when it started.

Beth: Interesting. The providers – your treatment providers at the time, you mean, prior to Mercy?

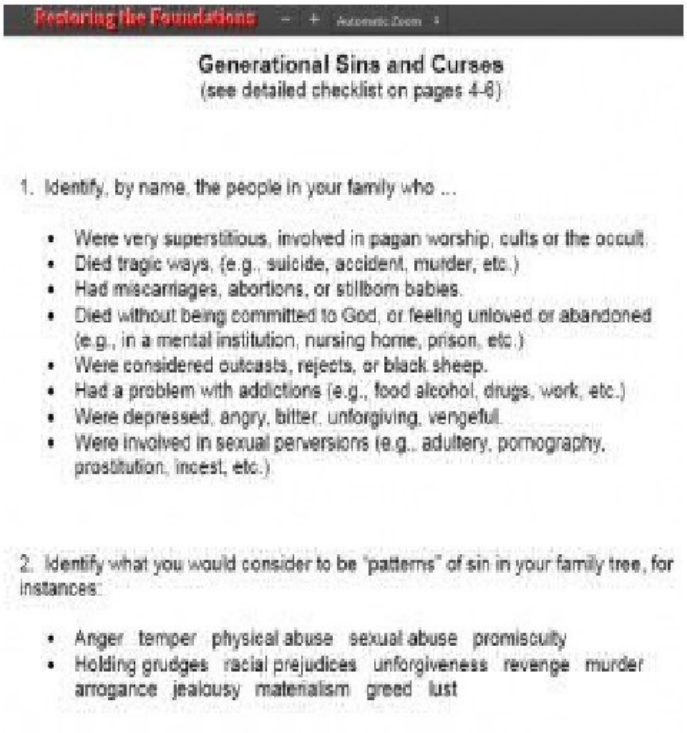
Mercy is especially interested in knowing if you've been diagnosed with DID or believe you've suffered Ritual Abuse

Chelsea: I was really hyper-vigilant, but it was because I was constantly tired all the time from my narcolepsy. One doctor [prior to Mercy Ministries] suggested to me that I might have DID and I told [Mercy] this. It used to be a question on the application, so I told them right away. The DID diagnosis happened in between the application to Mercy and arriving there. And my counselor's face turned white. I asked her if something was wrong and she said "No" and I said "Is that bad"? And she said "No". And I was still pressing her, because she looked sick to her stomach. And I said "What's wrong? DID, like Dissociative Identity Disorder?"

And she was like "I don't know what that is". And I was like "Like multiple personality disorder, just the new term for it". And she's like "No, no I've never heard of it, let's get back to what we were doing". And I was like who has never heard of Multiple Personality Disorder? And then after I left and did all this research on Mercy I learned that Nancy Alcorn's Ministry had this thing for DID cases.
Our counseling model was called "Restoring the Foundations" and it was started by the Kylstras. Basically they started this training program on how to "help" people with DID "the Pentecostal way". And Nancy Alcorn was obsessed with this training process, and with training her counselors for this training process. I provided a link to just one of the many places that have been trained by the Restoring the Foundations Model on how to deal with DID clients. This is how bad it is.

Chelsea's link led to the following website: "Restoration in Christ Ministries – Hearing the Cries of the Sexually and Ritually Abused"

From the website: *Secular therapy often fails to adequately resolve the complex spiritual issues involved in the healing process of abuse victims. … as much as 10% of the general population and 20% to 50% of psychiatric in-patients are dissociative to some degree.*


Restoring the Foundations

Generational Sins and Curses
(see detailed checklist on pages 4-8)

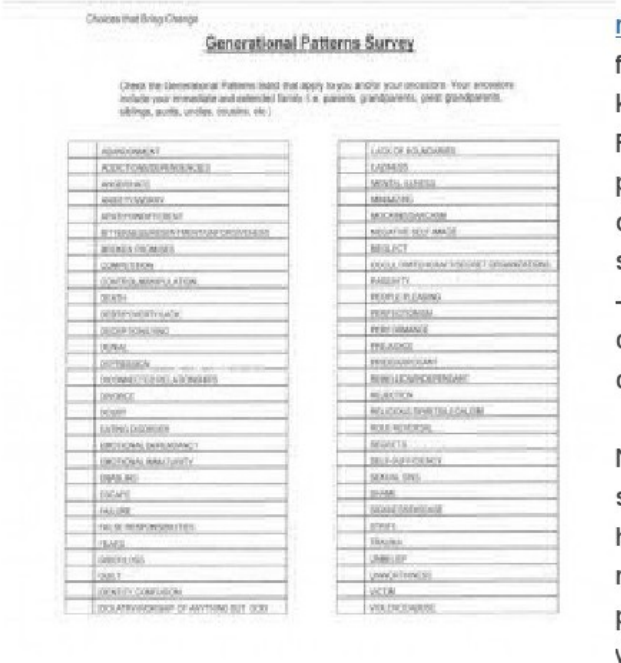
1. Identify, by name, the people in your family who ...

- Were very superstitious, involved in pagan worship, cults or the occult.
- Died tragic ways, (e.g., suicide, accident, murder, etc.)
- Had miscarriages, abortions, or stillborn babies.
- Died without being committed to God, or feeling unloved or abandoned (e.g., in a mental institution, nursing home, prison, etc.)
- Were considered outcasts, rejects, or black sheep.
- Had a problem with addictions (e.g., food alcohol, drugs, work, etc.)
- Were depressed, angry, bitter, unforgiving, vengeful.
- Were involved in sexual perversions (e.g., adultery, pornography, prostitution, incest, etc.)

2. Identify what you would consider to be "patterns" of sin in your family tree, for instances:

- Anger temper physical abuse sexual abuse promiscuity
- Holding grudges racial prejudices unforgiveness revenge murder arrogance jealousy materialism greed lust

In 2008, amidst a flurry of accusations of financial fraud and abuse of the residents, the two Australia based Mercy homes were shut down. Residents alleged that they had been subjected to exorcisms to rid them of their mental and emotional maladies. In June of that year, Alcorn announced that Mercy Ministries was developing its own counseling model, *Choices That Bring Change*. According to past



Choices that Bring Change

Generational Patterns Survey

residents, Choices That Bring Change has far fewer references to casting out demons, but keeps the same key features as Restoring the Foundations. A quick look at some of the printed material for both programs demonstrates that they are, in fact, quite similar, and the basic counseling techniques — particularly those that are known to cultivate false memories and extract false confessions — are unchanged.

Nancy Alcorn and the Mercy Ministries staff shun psychiatry and conventional mental health treatment, attempting to "fix" the residents via supernatural means: salvation, prayer, casting out demons, and being "filled with the spirit". But they share a common bond with an ever-growing subset of conventional therapists;namely, the secular, faux-therapeutic element of Mercy Ministries' past and present therapy models is drawn directly from the pseudo-scientific quackery of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISST-D), an organization which actively promotes Illuminati andSatanic Ritual Abuse conspiracy theories and facilitates the continued development and use of modern Recovered Memory techniques.

Ritual-Abuse/Mind-Control Special Interest Group (RA/MC SIG)

Ritual-Abuse/Mind-Control Special Interest Group

The Ritual Abuse and Mind Control Special Interest Group (RA/MC SIG) of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) was approved by ISSTD's Executive Council in 2006. The Mission of the RA/MC SIG is to further dialogue, knowledge, research, and training on the etiology, evaluation, and effective treatment of trauma and dissociation in clients reporting histories of ritual abuse or mind control. The RA/MC SIG provides a listserv for its membership that has as its goal to create a comfortable and confidential setting to dialogue on these matters. This is an active listserv with a large international membership. The officers of the RA/MC SIG are elected annually by its membership. Membership in the RA/MC SIG is free to all ISSTD members as an ISSTD membership benefit. To join the RA/MC SIG, please contact: Ellen Lacter: ellenlacter@earthlink.net Jean Rosenam: jrosenam@aconic.net Ann Beckett: ann_at_stgeorgestravel@yahoo.ca

Setting aside their disdain for the worldly sophistication of secular psychology and psychiatry, Restoration in Christ Ministries' "What Is DID" page acknowledges charter members and past presidents of the ISST-D as their primary sources of information:

- James P. Bloch, writer of Assessment and Treatment of Multiple Personality and Dissociative Disorders, in which he writes favorably about hypnosis and its use in treating Multiple Personality Disorder (now known as Dissociative Identity Disorder)
- Dr. Frank W. Putnam, whose expert witness testimony for the defense of a woman who murdered her non-verbal, non-communicative autistic son can be seenhere. This email inquiry to Dr. Putnam touches on just a few of the problems with his testimony:

Dear Frank --

I'm writing a freelance piece for Vice.com regarding the Gigi Jordan case. In fact, I've already written it, but the editor wanted me to reach out to you to give you the opportunity to make a comment.
It's my opinion that if Ms. Jordan had found more competent professional help, she may not have murdered her child. I'm sure you're aware that Ms. Jordan consulted with Ellen Lacter, and that this consultation surely couldn't have done much to help calm her delusions of an omnipresent Satanic conspiracy oppressing her and her son. If you have any comment on that, please, by all means...
As specifically relates to you, you explicitly claimed that the child himself was communicating via keyboard. Other testimony directly refutes this, claiming that Ms. Jordan herself was "guiding" the hand of the child, sometimes as he looked away entirely. Did you directly observe the child typing. Frank? Do you have any evidence today that this child -- improbable though it is -- could actually type sentences at the level claimed by his mother? Would you agree, Frank, that this woman's perception that her son was being abused by a Satanic conspiracy helped motivate her to kill him? Therefore, would it not be accurate to say that a medical professional who failed to realize and relay to Ms. Jordan that her perception of her communication with her son was inaccurate (and thus allowed her to create a delusion of Satanic abuse allegations) is complicit (by way of incompetence) in the murder itself?
To be sure, I am of the opinion that professional incompetence helped murder that child, and I intend to make this fact generally known. Respond or don't, Frank. If you respond, I'm obligated to use it. If you don't, I'll be perfectly happy to write that you failed to reply.

Love, Douglas Mesner

- Dr. Colin Ross, who was fired from a Winnipeg hospital for practicing "fraudulent and dangerous medicine" and was sued for malpractice in Texas
- Bessel Van der Kolk, whose deceptive testimony and scientific dishonesty is a matter of public record
- Onno Van der Hart, a Satanic Ritual Abuse and Recovered Memory proponent from the Netherlands

But whatever meager oversight is given to properly accredited, licensed mental health care facilities, the unlicensed,unaccredited Mercy Ministries has no such standards to meet, and the residents are without recourse.

Such is the dubious foundation upon which DID and Recovered Memory proponents build their beliefs and professional practices. But whatever meager oversight is given to properly accredited, licensed mental health care facilities, the*un*licensed, *un*accredited Mercy Ministries has no such standards to meet, and the residents are without recourse.

Beth: Wow. I'm just looking over the main site, but the "ritually abused" in their tag line at the top of the page caught my eye. They quote Colin Ross!
Chelsea: Yeah… the pentecostal DID and false memories are two decades behind the rest of us. I wonder if Colin Ross would even call these people crazy though, the way they do things.
Beth: He would think they're crazy, no doubt. My assessment of Ross is that he's a sociopath. I don't think he believes the things he tells patients. Many Recovered Memory Therapy/DID clinicians are deluded themselves, and they believe the crass conspiracies they pass along, but I don't think Ross is among that crowd.
Chelsea: You have Pentecostals and then you have Benny Hinn Pentecostals…
Beth: I grew up in a conservative home, very fundamentalist, but almost the polar opposite of Pentecostals. We sang hymns and were fairly prim and proper during the church service. Pentecostals were like a different breed. My few visits to Pentecostal churches, it all seemed very wacky to me.
Chelsea: Oh it was definitely wacky to me. When I went to Mercy Ministries and people were not acting like they typically did, it freaked me out. I remember at one point one staff member suspected that demons were all around the house, so they took "blessed water" and made crosses above each room with the water. Everyone went around and yelled in tongues. It reminded me more of devil worshiping.

... And the reason for this "cleansing"?

Chelsea: Apparently two girls were caught kissing.
Beth: I know this experience at Mercy was a horrific one for you, but that's hilarious.
Chelsea: Oh I totally know… I was terrified back then but now I just have to laugh at half of the stuff and realize that if it happened to me today and I was as confident as I am now, I would have been kicked out for making fun. I can't imagine getting through something like that unless you can find the humor in it. I was totally kicked out because they said I was rebellious and manipulative.
I think what they meant to say was, half the time they told us to do stuff, I stood there and rolled my eyes.

Beth: Well, there's something else that also made you incompatible with the survivor community — you placed a higher priority on knowing the truth than on being accepted and having that status. That's a difficult thing for people, especially when that's their only source of validation and affection. It would be a hard thing to do, pursuing the truth and risking all of those connections and the support.
Chelsea: Yeah that was a really hard time. Especially because Mercy had wrangled in my entire family and friends. "Oh we're so perfect and if anyone can fix your friend, daughter, sister, it's us and we are so perfect that in fact if she doesn't make if through, it means that she had to be the screw up". So it meant much more than losing Mercy, it meant making all my friends and family mad at me for months. It led to a suicide attempt, a psych stay and eventually years later their affection for Mercy dwindled and I won their love back. Yay happy ending!
Beth: I'm sorry it took years, but yes! So glad there was a happy ending!
Chelsea: I think in most part because some of my family is religious and they equated Mercy to God.
Beth: Yes, my family had its share of difficulties, too. We had to suffer through it because most of the Christian counseling facilities did not have well trained therapeutic counselors back then. They had counselors with theological backgrounds who insisted all problems were spiritual, and told their clients to pray and read the Bible when their tempers were flaring.
Chelsea: Ick, yeah, that was the whole spiel they gave us at Mercy. Girls would go up to staff "I feel like I need to self harm". "Go pray about it"
Beth: So, really, as you said, a lot like what you experienced at MM. Of course, there are some people who might see some benefit from that. Praying can be meditative, and some people report improvement in mild anxiety and mild depression when they meditate. But then you have everyone else, who gets no benefit from it at all. And the self-harmers, what happens when they keep self-harming?

> Basically you show up to Mercy half dead and you're begging them to make you alive again. But they will use the fact that you owe them, or that they can kick you out for anything.

Chelsea: As far as self harming at Mercy Ministries… They threaten you A LOT. That's how they keep you in order. They really pin you against your life. Basically you show up to Mercy half dead and you're begging them to make you alive again. But they will use the fact that you owe them, or that they can kick you out for anything.

Beth: That's what I suspected; the threat of punishment, isolation… wow. What a place to be stuck in.

Chelsea: If they threaten to kick you out, thoughts of "omg my family will hate me, I'll probably die from suicide, Mercy ministries says I won't survive out there without them" circle around in your head until you nearly faint. So you just do what they say. Stop self harming? Fine. Read books when you hate reading? Fine. Don't sleep when you have narcolepsy? Fine. Until one day you just crack and the next thing you know you are briskly walking away from the establishment in what the staff members refer to as an "escape".

Beth: So they play on your desperation. It's a shame it caused so much conflict with your family, but kicking you out was the biggest favor they ever did for you.

The graduates that are against Mercy are often stuck in this foggy in-between. Can't choose. They know Mercy is bad, but they gave them a graduation ring and they still have friends from Mercy. For me, my friends from Mercy cut me off right away. If you get kicked out of Mercy you're not even allowed to say goodbye to the other girls, let alone speak to them afterward. It's almost like you're a leper. You don't have that other side that doesn't see the truth about Mercy tugging on your shoulder constantly. They walked away on the same day everybody else did, one fateful day in October in 2008.

Chelsea: I KNOW. I totally and 100% agree.

The graduates that are against Mercy are often stuck in this foggy in-between. Can't choose. They know Mercy is bad, but they gave them a graduation ring and they still have friends from Mercy. For me, my friends from Mercy cut me off right away. If you get kicked out of Mercy you're not even allowed to say goodbye to the other girls, let alone speak to them afterward. It's almost like you're a leper. You don't have that other side that doesn't see the truth about Mercy tugging on your shoulder constantly. They walked away on the same day everybody else did, one fateful day in October in 2008.

Beth: Is there any one particular issue that brings girls to Mercy? As in, is it primarily eating disorders, or self harming, anything in particular?

Chelsea: They like to deal a lot with disorders that tend to make sponsors feel sorry for people. So avoid disorders like "schizophrenia" "bipolar" and hone in more towards disorders like "eating disorders and depression and self harm". They do ask for past treatment providers info.

Discussing a hypothetical: "What if someone were to go in undercover?"

Chelsea: I guess inevitably I have to ask the question "how strong of a person is the person you have in mind?" I guess that in the long term you would have to be sure that you're not helping to send someone susceptible into Mercy. Nobody knows Mercy's dirty side better than I do. If I haven't experienced it, then I've talked one on one with a girl who has. I've spent hours with girls talking them into reaching out for help, even though Mercy was supposed to be help.
If someone were to do this you would have to prepare her for whatever she would come across and also put her in contact with others who have experienced this, who may have other things to add. Because in the end we are all susceptible to cults and mind control, no matter how much we like to tell ourselves we are not.

They told me [if I left] I would "shut down all of Mercy Ministries". Which to me was horrible at the time, because I thought they were a good program and I would hurt others.

There are certain things she would have to know. For example, they will try and convince her without a doubt that she is not allowed to leave, cannot leave, and if she leaves the property, whatever is her worst fear will come true. But this is not the reality. Mercy is not a court commitment. They don't take court commitments. In this instance you should think of it as "I went over to a friends house and I can leave whenever I want". If they physically try to keep you there, it's called kidnapping. You could, at anytime while you feel unsafe, walk out of those doors, and to a phone or a neighbor. And they can chase after you with their vans, manipulate you with every morsel in their body and you can keep walking. They cannot grab you and put you in the van. That's also called kidnapping. For me, for example, when I ran away they threatened to kick me out and I said "Good".

Then they told me [if I left] I would "shut down all of Mercy Ministries". Which to me was horrible at the time, because I thought they were a good program and I would hurt others. I also was so fearful they would call the cops and have me brought back to Mercy. But if they would have called the cops, they would have gotten themselves in trouble. But I was so off, that I didn't know who the bad guys were and I assumed it was me.

Words can be much stronger than a physical grasp and trust me, they teach words to the staff at Mercy Ministries. There are a billion other things this girl would need to know and needs to be prepared for.

The fact that she will have limited access to the outside world. No phone calls during the week. Incoming phone calls Saturday and two outgoing phone calls on Sunday and at anytime they can just block somebody from calling "just because". And that Staff do and can listen in on conversations. No access to news/newspapers/radios/regular music (Christian music only). The assignments she'll be doing, the toilets she'll be scrubbing, the fact that she will in fact have to act

happy when you are in fact angry with how the whole program pans out. She will have to pretend talk in tongues, pretend praise and worship (hands in the air). At some point she'll have to do alter calls. She may even be encouraged to be water baptized again, because even if she says she was baptized as a child, it may not count to them.

She will need to learn the most crazy boundaries ever. No hugs, no touching people ever, even permission is needed to do others' make up and hair, changing in small stalls in the bathroom. Possible separation contracts (actual written out contracts that prevents you from coming within 5 feet of another person) if they feel she is getting too close to another girl for any reason whatsoever and totally out of the blue. All of this is to prevent lesbianism.

She would have to learn not to trust anyone, because everyone is just scanning everyone else, waiting for someone to mess up so they can go tattle on them and score more brownie points. She would have to resist all their "Herbal remedies" they push on everyone. If she can't sleep, she better keep it to herself, because otherwise she's getting melatonin shoved down her throat. She'd have to deal with the stringent exercise and diet routine. An hour everyday at the YMCA plus totally organic foods. And she'd have to try and not puke at all the legitimate places that support Mercy Ministries after what she sees go on inside those doors. (Chik Fil A, YMCA, Honda, etc)

It would take her awhile to learn about Mercy. Mercy Ministries is not Castlewood. Castlewood has at least some standards they have to live up to. Mercy Ministries is the Wild Wild West and Castlewood is Boston.

Beth: Right, Castlewood has standards because they are a licensed mental healthcare facility, whereas Mercy Ministries is listed as a charity and is not even licensed to practice. They keep flying under the radar.
Chelsea: Mercy Ministries is a free program and their wealthy donors donate their money expecting to help women with mental illnesses. Unfortunately Mercy's donors have the wool pulled over their eyes that they are in fact not helping any women with mental illnesses, but some day, some how the truth will come out.

Please click here to help **hold Mercy Ministries accountable**.
author: beth

By DC on 01/25/2014 whofortedblog.com

The Devil's Baby, Ravenswood, West Virginia's Creepiest Legend

Ravenswood WV

Ravenswood, a city located in Jackson County West Virginia along the Ohio River has always been a place of historical history. The town was built on a tract of land once owned by George Washington. River boats used to travel the Ohio River and Ravenswood was a major stop along their way. During the civil war a battle was fought about a mile north at Buffington Island.

Many famous and non-famous visitors have come and went over the years at Ravenswood and naturally some ghost stayed behind to roam the area. The cemetery is filled with some very interesting people. Even a Napoleon bodyguard is buried in the cemetery.

Growing up in Ravenswood West Virginia, I had never paid much mind to any ghost stories, I guess you say I was just interested in the girls. A friend of mine told me a story that the devils baby was buried in the local cemetery. He claimed a tomb stone which bore a photo of a baby with fangs glowed in the dark. He also claimed that at midnight you hear a baby cry.

The Devils Baby

Being the unbeliever that I was, I took him up on the offer to visit this grave for myself, of course, at night. Well, there we were, walking around a grave yard at night, no flashlight, just the light of the moon when all of a sudden I saw a glow. A grave stone was glowing! When I saw it I was amazed, not scared. The photo on the grave stone did indeed glow in the dark. And the photo of the baby did look as though it had fangs. But we never heard a baby cry, must have been sleeping well.

Years went by and I told my wife about this experience the other day. You see I had forgotten about it till now. We decided to visited the cemetery, this time we were going to visit it in the day light.

I had problems trying to locate the exact location of the grave stone. I asked an employee that worked there if he know of such a story, he laughed and said, "You mean the devils baby?" He then led us right to the grave site. The photo on the stone marker did resemble a baby with evil eyes and maybe some teeth that did resemble fangs. I guess the weather had taken the toll on the photo over the years. It did, indeed, glow in the dark. Maybe the paper

the photo was printed on exposed to the sunlight had something to do with that or maybe, just maybe it is the devils baby. George the devils baby.

Cheers!

DC

8 Comments

1. Aimee

01/25/2014 at 10:12 AM

You would think the devil would take better care of his babies…

2. Whitney

01/26/2014 at 9:33 PM

I grew up spending summers with my father and grandparents who lived in Ravenswood. Have seen the grave many times! The whole town reminded me of ghost towns, but never heard the baby cry! Often wondered what happened or who it really was!!!

3. Emily

01/27/2014 at 9:47 PM

I was born and have lived in Ravenswood, WV for 26 years. It is actually referred to as the “Devil Baby.” Supposedly, the baby was born with a bad facial deformity that caused it to have a devilish appearance. The ears were also pointed and it supposedly had fangs. I don’t know how old it was when it died, but usually babies don’t have teeth. The picture has also been defaced throughout the years and fangs were drawn on it at one point. Now, the picture is very weathered and the baby is barely visible at all. As far as it glowing in the dark, it does indeed! There has definitely always been something creepy about it and it is an old legend here in our town.

4. DC

01/28/2014 at 8:47 AM

George was born on 27 April 1915 and passed away on 21 July 1917.

5. Kimberly

01/28/2014 at 3:24 PM

Where is the cemetery at in Ravenswood, Wv. What was George’s last name? Really curious about the story. Would love to see the grave site.

6. DC

01/28/2014 at 3:40 PM

Kimberly, The cemetery is located Route 68 north of town on right side. His last name was “Sharp”. George Elwood Sharp. Please get permission if you visit it after dark. Cheers!

7. Misti McClure

04/29/2014 at 5:56 PM

Hello! I grew up in Ravenswood and spent many hours in the cemetery especially in my teens due to my proclivity for the paranormal and the unknown so I’ve seen this tombstone on several occasions. I always thought the story was quite sad considering the child was so young especially. Now my parents both have a spot in the same cemetery with their photos on their shared stone I hope that time will be better to their place of rest and not spark tales of something sinister in the future but knowing how much my parents loved inflicting a good scare perhaps they’d enjoy some macabre attention. Thanks for including my hometown in your list! There are a few places in the county made famous by WV Folklore publications over the years and word of mouth. I still live in Jackson County but now I’m closer to the scene of the John Morgan murders that prompted the last public hanging in WV. Every person,creature and piece of land has its own story so I appreciate history. Thanks Again!

- DC

  04/30/2014 at 4:32 PM

  Thanks Misti, I grew up in Ravenswood, that’s how I knew of the story, I forgot it till the day I decided to do a story on it. I will however be doing a follow up story as well, planned soon. Yes I know the Morgan story as well, I used to live in the town of the Hanging too. Cheers!

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THE DRAGON GHOST-GODS

Dragons were among the ghost-gods of the ancient Hawaiians. These dragons were called mo-o. The New Zealanders used the same names for some of their large reptile gods. They, however, spelled the word with a "k," calling it mo-ko, and it was almost identical in pronunciation as in meaning with the Hawaiian name. Both the Hawaiians and New Zealanders called all kinds of lizards mo-o or mo-ko; and their use of this word in traditions showed that they often had in mind animals like crocodiles and alligators, and sometimes they referred the name to any monster of great mythical powers belonging to a man-destroying class.

Mighty eels, immense sea-turtles, large fish of the ocean, fierce sharks, were all called mo-o. The most ancient dragons of the Hawaiians are spoken of as living in pools or lakes. These dragons were known also as kupuas, or mysterious characters who could appear as animals or human beings according to their wish. The saying was: "Kupuas have a strange double body."

There were many other kupuas besides those of the dragon family. It was sometimes thought that at birth another natural form was added, such as an egg of a fowl or a bird, or the seed of a plant, or the embryo of some animal, which when fully developed made a form which could be used as readily as the human body. These kupuas were always given some great magic power. They were wonderfully strong and wise and skilful.

Usually the birth of a kupua, like the birth of a high chief, was attended with strange disturbances in the heavens, such as reverberating thunder, flashing lightning, and severe storms which sent the abundant red soil of the islands down the mountain-sides in blood-red torrents known as ka-ua-koko (the blood rain). This name was also given to misty fine rain when shot through by the red waves of the sun.

By far the largest class of kupuas was that of the dragons. These all belonged to one family. Their ancestor was Mo-o inanea (The Self-reliant Dragon), who figured very prominently in the Hawaiian legends of the most ancient times, such as "The Maiden of the Golden Cloud."

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Mo-o-inanea (The Self-reliant Dragon) brought the dragons, the kupua dragons, from the "Hidden Land of Kane" to the Hawaiian Islands. Mo-o-inanea was apparently a demi-goddess of higher power even than the gods Ku, Kane, or Kanaloa. She was the great dragon-goddess of the Hawaiians, coming to the islands in the migration of the gods from Nuu-mea-lani and Kuai-he-lani to settle. The dragons and other kupuas came as spirit servants of the gods.

For a while this Mo-o-inanea lived with her brothers, the gods, at Waolani, but after a long time there were so many dragons that it was necessary to distribute them over the islands,

and Mo-o-inanea decided to leave her brothers and find homes for her numerous family. So she went down to Puunui in the lower part of Nuuanu Valley and there made her home , and it is said received worship from the men of the ancient days. Here she dwelt in her dual nature--sometimes appearing as a dragon, sometimes as a woman.

Very rich clayey soil was found in this place, forced out of the earth as if by geyser action. It was greatly sought in later years by the chiefs who worshipped this goddess. They made the place tabu, and used the clay, sometimes eating it, but generally plastering the hair with it. This place was made very tabu by the late Queen Kaahumanu during her lifetime.

Mo-o-inanea lived in the pit from which this clay was procured, a place called Lua-palolo, meaning pit-of-sticky-clay. After she had come to this dwelling-place the dragons were sent out to find homes. Some became chiefs and others servants, and when by themselves were known as the evil ones. She distributed her family over all the islands from Hawaii to Niihau. Two of these dragon-women, according to the legends, lived as guardians of the pali (precipice) at the end of Nuuanu Valley, above Honolulu. After many years it was supposed that they both assumed the permanent forms of large stones which have never lost their associations with mysterious, miraculous power.

Even as late as 1825, Mr. Bloxam, the chaplain of the English man-of-war, recorded in "The Voyage of the Blonde" the following statement:

"At the bottom of the Parre (pali) there are two large stones on which even now offerings of fruits and flowers are laid to propitiate the Aku-wahines, or goddesses, who are supposed to have the power of granting a safe passage,"

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Mr. Bloxam says that these were a kind of mo-o, or reptile, goddesses, and adds that it was difficult to explain the meaning of the name given to them, probably because the Hawaiians had nothing in the shape of serpents or large reptiles in their islands.

A native account of these stones says: "There is a large grove of hau-trees in Nuuanu Valley, and above these lie the two forest women, Hau-ola and Ha-puu. These are now two large stones, one being about three feet long with a fine smooth back, the other round with some little rough places. The long stone is on the seaward side, and this is the Mo-o woman, Hau-ola; and the other, Ha-puu. The leaves of ferns cover Hau-ola, being laid on that stone. On the other stone, Ha-puu, are lehua flowers. These are kupuas."

Again the old people said that their ancestors had been accustomed to bring the navel cords of their children and bury them under these stones to insure protection of the little ones from evil, and that these were the stone women of Nuuanu.

Ala-muki lived in the deep pools of the Waialua River near the place Ka-mo-o-loa, which received its name from the long journeys that dragon made over the plains of Waialua. She and her descendants guarded the paths and sometimes destroyed those who travelled that way.

One dragon lived in the Ewa lagoon, now known as Pearl Harbor. This was Kane-kua-ana, who was said to have brought the pipi (oysters) to Ewa. She was worshipped by those who gathered the shell-fish. When the oysters began to disappear about 1850, the natives said that the dragon had become angry and was sending the oysters to Kahiki, or some far-away foreign land.

Kilioe, Koe, and Milolii were noted dragons on the island of Kauai. They were the dragons of the precipices of the northern coast of this island, who took the body of the high chief Lohiau and concealed it in a cave far up the steep side of the mountain. There is a very long interesting story of the love between Lohiau and Pele, the goddess of fire. In this story Pele overcame the dragons and won the love of the chief. Hiiaka, the sister of the fire-goddess, won a second victory over them when she rescued a body from the cave and brought it back to life.

On Maui, the greatest dragon of the island was Kiha-wahine. The natives had the saying, "Kiha has mana, or miraculous power. like Mo-o-inanea." She lived in a large

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deep pool on the edge of the village Lahaina, and was worshipped by the royal family of Maui as their special guardian.

There were many dragons of the island of Hawaii, and the most noted of these were the two who lived in the Wailuku River near Hilo. They were called "the moving boards" which made a bridge across the river.

Sometimes they accepted offerings and permitted a safe passage, and sometimes they tipped the passengers into the water and drowned them. They were destroyed by Hiiaka.

Sacred to these dragons who were scattered over all the islands were the mo-o priests and the sorcerers, who propitiated them with offerings and sacrifices, chanting incantations.

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The first Air Force One is wasting away in the desert - CNNPolitics.com

By Jeff Simon , Producer
2015-05-01T10:05:55Z

cnn.com

This it the first-ever Air Force One, the Columbine II. It carried President Dwight D. Eisenhower around the world from 1953-54 and is now baking in the Arizona desert.

Marana, Arizona (CNN)In December 1953, an airplane named the "Columbine II" was on a flight over New York City, identified by air traffic controllers simply as "Air Force 8610." With President Eisenhower on board, it nearly collided mid-air with a commercial airliner also flight-numbered 8610. The near-tragedy prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to designate a call sign for any aircraft that the President of the United States is aboard. The Columbine II became the first Air Force One.

Today it sits on a patch of desert land, where grass struggles and gopher holes dot the arid ground -- baking. And the owner of a Virginia aviation company wants to fly it home.

"It's an airplane with an incredible amount of history," Karl Stoltzfus, the chairman of Bridgewater, Virginia-based Dynamic Aviation said. "At the end of the day it's an airplane that should be preserved for the public to appreciate."

Stoltzfus and his associates have spent weeks in Arizona inspecting the Lockheed Constellation's four engines, cataloging and replacing parts, and trying to determine whether it could ever fly again. They think it can, and last week they committed to purchasing the plane. The asking price was $1.5 million, though Stoltzfus would not confirm the final sale price.

"We want to purchase it and refurbish it and bring it back to Bridgewater [Virginia] and have it for public display," Stoltzfus said.

The Columbine II is the only privately-owned presidential aircraft in the United States. A rancher and pilot named Mel Christler bought it in a 1970 military surplus auction. The Air Force never told him that the aircraft he wanted to use for crop dusting was Dwight D. Eisenhower's first presidential plane.

"He was getting ready to scrap this airplane [in 1980], and the Smithsonian had been doing

some research into aircraft that had carried presidential entourages around and contacted him and asked him if he knew what he had," Christler's grandson, Tim Crowley said.

"My grandfather was a World War II veteran. ... He just felt that since it's an important part of our history, that he had to preserve it."

The plane was never scrapped, but Christler couldn't pull together enough money to restore it. In 1990, a Wyoming rancher named Harry Oliver partnered with Christler to restore the plane to flying conditions.

"[Christler] said, 'Harry, I've given up. I can't afford to keep her any longer and nobody seems to be interested in saving her, and I think I'll put her through the smelter.'" Oliver recalled. "And I told him you know, we can't do that. It's a little bit of our history."

So the pair reassembled the plane in the fall of 1990 and flew it to Eisenhower's hometown of Abilene, Kansas, in honor of what would have been the 34th president's 100th birthday.

Ike's plane hasn't flown since 2003. This month, Stoltzfus and his colleagues ran the engines for the first time in 12 years. And soon, the Columbine II may fly again.

Related: After the Columbine was retired, the SAM 26000 became Air Force One. Click below for pictures of the plane that carried JFK and LBJ.

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I. The Ghost of Wahaula Temple

THE GHOST OF WAHAULA TEMPLE

HAWAIIAN temples were never works of art. Broken lava was always near the site. Unhewn stones were piled into massive walls and laid in terraces for altar and floors. Water-worn pebbles were carried from the beach and strewn over the floor, making a smooth place for the naked feet of the temple dwellers to pass without injury from the sharp-edged lava. Rude grass huts built on terraces were the abodes of the priests and high chiefs who visited the places of sacrifice. Elevated, flat-topped piles of stones were built at one end of the temple for the chief idols and the sacrifices placed before them. Simplicity of detail marked every step of temple erection.

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No hewn pillars or arched gateways of even the most primitive designs can be found in any of the temples whether of recent date or belonging to remote antiquity. There was no attempt at ornamentation even in the images of the great gods which they worshipped. Crude and hideous were the images before which they offered sacrifice and prayer. In themselves the heiaus, or temples, of the Hawaiian Islands have but little attraction. To-day they seem more like massive walled cattle-pens than places which have been used for worship. On the southeast coast of Hawaii near Kalapana is one of the largest, oldest, and best preserved heiaus. It is worthy the name of temple only as it is intimately associated with the religious customs of the Hawaiians. Its walls are several feet thick and in places ten to twelve feet high. It is divided into rooms or pens, in one of which still lies the huge sacrificial stone upon which victims--sometimes human--were slain before the bodies were placed as offerings in front of the hideous idols leaning against the stone walls.

This heiau is now called Wahaula (red-mouth). In ancient times it was known as Ahaula (the red assembly), possibly denoting that at times the priests and their attendants wore red mantles in their processions or during some part of their sacred ceremonies.

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This temple is said to be the oldest of all the Hawaiian heiaus--except possibly the heiau at Kohala on the northern coast of the same island. These two heiaus date back in tradition to the time of Paao, the priest from Upolu, Samoa, who was said to have built them. He was the traditional father of the priestly line which ran parallel to the royal genealogy of the Kamehamehas during several centuries until the last high priest, Hewahewa, became a follower of Jesus Christ--the Saviour of the world. This was the last heiau destroyed when the ancient tabus and ceremonial rites were overthrown by the chiefs just before the coming of Christian missionaries. At that time the grass houses of the priests were burned and in these raging flames were thrown the wooden idols back of the altars and the bamboo huts of the soothsayers and the rude images on the walls, with everything combustible which belonged to the ancient order of worship. Only the walls and rough stone floors were left in the temple.

In the outer temple court was the most noted sacred grave in all the islands. Earth had been carried from the mountain-sides inland. Leaves and decaying trees added to the permanency of the soil. Here in a most unlikely place it was said that all the varieties of trees then found in the islands had been gathered by the priests--

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the descendants of Paao. To this day the grave stands by the temple walls, an object of superstitious awe among the natives. Many of the varieties of trees planted there have died, leaving only those which were more hardy and needed less priestly care than they received a hundred years or more ago.

The temple is built near the coast on the rough, sharp, broken rocks of an ancient lava flow. In many places in and around the temple the lava was dug out, making holes three or four feet across and from one to two feet deep. These in the days of the priesthood had been filled with earth brought in baskets from the mountains. Here they raised sweet potatoes and taro and bananas. Now the rains have washed the soil away and to the unknowing there is no sign of previous agriculture. Near these depressions and along the paths leading to Wahaula other holes were sometimes cut out of the hard fine-grained lava. When heavy rains fell, little grooves carried the drops of water to these holes and they became small cisterns. Here the thirsty messengers running from one priestly clan to another, or the traveller or worshippers coming to the sacred place, could almost always find a few drops of water to quench their thirst.

Usually these water-holes were covered with a large flat stone under which the water ran into

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the cistern. To this day these small water-places border the path across the pahoehoe[1] lava field which lies adjacent to the broken a-a[2] lava upon which the Wahaula heiau is built. Many of them are still covered as in the days of the long ago.

It is not strange that legends have developed through the mists of the centuries around this rude old temple.

Wahaula was a tabu temple of the very highest rank. The native chants said,

"No keia heiau oia ke kapu enaena.

("Concerning this heiau is the burning tabu.")

"Enaena" means "burning with a red hot rage." The heiau was so thoroughly "tabu," or "kapu," that the smoke of its fires falling upon any of the people or even upon any one of the chiefs was sufficient cause for punishment by death, with the body as a sacrifice to the gods of the temple.

These gods were of the very highest rank among the Hawaiian deities. Certain days were tabu to Lono--or Rongo, as he was known in other island groups of the Pacific Ocean. Other

days belonged to Ku--who was also worshipped from New Zealand to Tahiti. At other times Kane, known as Tane by many Polynesians, was held supreme. Then again Kanaloa--or

[1. Pahoehoe is smooth lava.

2. A-a is rough lava.]

{p. 6} Tanaroa, sometimes worshipped in Samoa and other island groups as the greatest of all their gods--had his days especially set apart for sacrifice and chant.

The Mu, or "body-catcher," of this heiau with his assistants seems to have been continually on the watch for human victims, and woe to the unfortunate man who carelessly or ignorantly walked where the winds blew the smoke from the temple fires. No one dared rescue him from the hands of the hunter of men--for then the wrath of all the gods was sure to follow him all the days of his life.

The people of the districts around Wahaula always watched the course of the winds with great anxiety, carefully noting the direction taken by the smoke. This smoke was the shadow cast by the deity worshipped, and was far more sacred than the shadow of the highest chief or king in all the islands.

It was always sufficient cause for death if a common man allowed his shadow to fall upon any tabu chief, *i.e.*, a chief of especially high rank; but in this "burning tabu," if any man permitted the smoke or shadow of the god who was being worshipped in this temple to come near to him or overshadow him, it was a mark of such great disrespect that the god was supposed to be enaena, or red hot with rage.

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Many ages ago a young chief whom we shall know by the name Kahele determined to take an especial journey around the island visiting all the noted and sacred places and becoming acquainted with the alii, or chiefs, of the other districts.

He passed from place to place, taking part with the chiefs who entertained him sometimes in the use of the papa-hee, or surf-board, riding the white-capped surf as it majestically swept shoreward--sometimes spending night after night in the innumerable gambling contests which passed under the name pili waiwai--and sometimes riding the narrow sled, or holua, with which Hawaiian chiefs raced down the steep grassed lanes. Then again, with a deep sense of the solemnity of sacred things, he visited the most noted of the heiaus and made contributions to the offerings before the gods. Thus the days passed, and the slow journey was very pleasant to Kahele.

In time he came to Puna, the district in which was located the temple Wahaula.

But alas! in the midst of the many stories of the past which he had heard, and the many pleasures he had enjoyed while on his journey, Kahele forgot the peculiar power of the tabu of the smoke of Wahaula. The fierce winds of the south were blowing and changing from

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point to point. The young man saw the sacred grove in the edge of which the temple walls could be discerned. Thin wreaths of smoke were tossed here and there from the temple fires.

Kahele hastened toward the temple. The Mu was watching his coming and joyfully marking him as a victim. The altars of the gods were desolate, and if but a particle of smoke fell upon the young man no one could keep him from the hands of the executioner.

The perilous moment came. The warm breath of one of the fires touched the young chief's cheek. Soon a blow from the club of the Mu laid him senseless on the rough stones of the outer court of the temple. The smoke of the wrath of the gods had fallen upon him, and it was well that he should lie as a sacrifice upon their altars.

Soon the body with the life still in it was thrown across the sacrificial stone. Sharp knives made from the strong wood of the bamboo let his life-blood flow down the depressions across the face of the stone. Quickly the body was dismembered and offered as a sacrifice.

For some reason the priests, after the flesh had decayed, set apart the bones for some special purpose. The legends imply that the bones were to be treated dishonorably. It may have been that the bones were folded together

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and known as unihipili, bones, folded and laid away for purposes of incantation. Such bundles of bones were put through a process of prayers and charms until at last it was thought a new spirit was created which dwelt in that bundle and gave the possessor a peculiar power in deeds of witchcraft.

The spirit of Kahele rebelled against this disposition of all that remained of his body. He wanted to be back in his native district, that he might enjoy the pleasures of the Under-world with his own chosen companions. Restlessly the spirit haunted the dark corners of the temple, watching the priests as they handled his bones.

Helplessly the ghost fumed and fretted against its condition. It did all that a disembodied spirit could do to attract the attention of the priests.

At last the spirit fled by night from this place of torment to the home which he had so joyfully left a short time before.

Kahele's father was the high chief of Kau. Surrounded by retainers, he passed his days in quietness and peace waiting for the return of his son.

One night a strange dream came to him. He heard a voice calling from the mysterious confines of the spirit-land. As he listened, a spirit form stood by his side. The ghost was that of his son Kahele.

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By means of the dream the ghost revealed to the father that he had been put to death and that his bones were in great danger of dishonorable treatment.

The father awoke benumbed with fear, realizing that his son was calling upon him for immediate help. At once he left his people and journeyed from place to place secretly, not knowing where or when Kahele had died, but fully sure that the spirit of his vision was that of his son. It was not difficult to trace the young man. He had left his footprints openly all along the way. There was nothing of shame or dishonor--and the father's heart filled with pride as he hastened on.

From time to time, however, he heard the spirit voice calling him to save the bones of the body of his dead son. At last he felt that his journey was nearly done. He had followed the footsteps of Kahele almost entirely around the island, and had come to Puna--the last district before his own land of Kau would welcome his return.

The spirit voice could be heard now in the dream which nightly came to him. Warnings and directions were frequently given.

Then the chief came to the lava fields of Wahaula and lay down to rest. The ghost came to him again in a dream, telling him that

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great personal danger was near at hand. The chief was a very strong man, excelling in athletic and brave deeds, but in obedience to the spirit voice he rose early in the morning, secured oily nuts from a kukui-tree[1], beat out the oil, and anointed himself thoroughly.

Walking along carelessly as if to avoid suspicion, he drew near to the lands of the temple Wahaula. Soon a man came out to meet him. This man was an Olohe, a beardless man belonging to a lawless robber clan which infested the district, possibly assisting the man-hunters of the temple in securing victims for the temple altars. This Olohe was very strong and self-confident, and thought he would have but little difficulty in destroying this stranger who journeyed alone through Puna.

Almost all day the battle raged between the two men. Back and forth they forced each other over the lava beds. The chief's well-oiled body was very difficult for the Olohe to grasp. Bruised and bleeding from repeated falls on the rough lava, both of the combatants were becoming very weary. Then the chief made a new attack, forcing the Olohe into a narrow place from which there was no escape, and at last seizing him, breaking his bones, and then killing him.

As the shadows of night rested over the temple

[1. Aleurites Moluccana.]

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and its sacred grave the chief crept closer to the dreaded tabu walls. Concealing himself he

waited for the ghost to reveal to him the best plan for action. The ghost came, but was compelled to bid the father wait patiently for a fit time when the secret place in which the bones were hidden could be safely visited.

For several days and nights the chief hid himself near the temple. He secretly uttered the prayers and incantations needed to secure the protection of his family gods.

One night the darkness was very great, and the priests and watchmen of the temple felt sure that no one would attempt to enter the sacred precincts. Deep sleep rested upon all the temple-dwellers.

Then the ghost of Kahele hastened to the place where the father was sleeping and aroused him for the dangerous task before him.

As the father arose he saw this ghost outlined in the darkness, beckoning him to follow. Step by step he felt his way cautiously over the rough path and along the temple walls until he saw the ghost standing near a great rock pointing at a part of the wall.

The father seized a stone which seemed to be the one most directly in the line of the ghost's pointing. To his surprise it was removed very easily from the wall. Back of it was a hollow place in which lay a bundle of folded bones.

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The ghost urged the chief to take these bones and depart quickly.

The father obeyed, and followed the spirit guide until safely away from the temple of the burning wrath of the gods. He carried the bones to Kau and placed them in his own secret family burial cave.

The ghost of Wahaula went down to the spirit world in great joy. Death had come. The life of the young chief had been taken for temple service and yet there had at last been nothing dishonorable connected with the destruction of the body and the passing away of the spirit..

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Next: II. Maluae and the Under-world

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The Gorbals Vampire Ate Children And Created A Moral Panic In 1954 - Flashbak Flashbak

By Paul Sorene on 23 April 2015 | comments 1

flashbak.com

circa 1890: The Necropolis graveyard in Glasgow. Glasgow is the most densely populated city in Scotland and is an important centre of industry and commerce. The city is also home to Hunterian Museum, the country's oldest public museum, and the most complete medieval church on the Scottish mainland. (Photo by London Stereoscopic Company/Getty Images)

On 23 September 1954, children aged 4 to 14 armed themselves with knives and stakes and marched on Glasgow's sprawling Southern Necropolis graveyard. They had heard that two children had been eaten alive at the place known locally as 'The City of the Dead', where 250,000 bodies were buried. The only suspect was a 7-ft tall, iron-teethed vampire.

Ronnie Sanderson was aged 8 at the time.

"It all started in the playground – the word was there was a vampire and everyone was going to head out there after school. At three o'clock the school emptied and everyone made a beeline for it. We sat there for ages on the wall waiting and waiting. I wouldn't go in because it was a bit scary for me. I think somebody saw someone wandering about and the cry went up: 'There's the vampire!' That was it – that was the word to get off that wall quick and get away from it. I just remember scampering home to my mother: 'What's the matter with you?' 'I've seen a vampire!' and I got a clout round the ear for my trouble. I didn't really know what a vampire was."

Kids laughed at death: Caption: A group of boys from the Gorbals play amongst the gravestones of the Corporation Burial Ground in Rutherglen Road, one of the few areas of greenery in the district. 1948.

No children had been reported missing. No-one had seen the monster. So. Why had the story

anybody who said anything bad against the Loch Ness monster would find himself in great danger——

Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Sir Rhys Hopkin Morris):

I do not think that this Bill is directed against the Loch Ness monster.

Mr. Rankin:

That is the very point I am making. That is just what I am about to say, because our monster is a “verrey parfait gentil” creature indeed. She keeps out of the way all winter and only surfaces during the tourist season. She is a very thoughtful monster. Of course, the Loch Ness monster is a lady. We like her so much that we call her “Nessie” and no lady—not even the bearded lady—could ever be a really successful monster.

But we can see how the children from that school had their minds gripped by this idea, and how easily the idea spread and their impulses were directed to a particular end. The police found exceeding difficulty in controlling these children, which is an added reason why I hope that this Bill will receive unanimous support in the House, because its object is entirely worthy.

I believe that it is an attempt to free the minds of our children from evil influences. By this Bill we seek to keep their minds from being poisoned. Just as we would refuse to put poison on the breakfast table or the dinner table to be put into the bodies of our children, so I hope that tonight we shall refuse to instil poison into their minds.

Mr. Somerville Hastings (Barking):

A short time ago, a research was carried out in Glasgow with regard to delinquent children, and it was found that 44 per cent. of them had in their household or family people who had got into 1163 difficulty with the police. Other areas showed much the same, although perhaps not quite so high a proportion. I think that another objection to these horror comics is that they tend to blunt the finer feelings. They show that there is much brutality even when good overcomes evil.

I suggest that there is a third objection, which I do not think has been sufficiently stressed in the debate tonight. That is that these horror comics are terribly frightening to children. Children do not wear their hearts on their sleeves. One does not know what a child is thinking, but in young minds the pictures or incidents depicted often have a very profound effect. I remember that when I was a very small boy I was given a copy of “Pilgrim’s Progress.” I remember a picture in that copy until this day. It was a picture of Apollyon. I did not say anything to anyone about it, but I could not prevent myself from looking at it, and it frightened me very much. I do not think that this is good for children.

Britain duly passed the Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act 1955 which, for the first time, specifically banned the sale of magazines and comics portraying “incidents of a repulsive or horrible nature” to minors.

And all was calm once more in the land of dragons.

(In 1970s UK, a moral panic surrounded Action comic, which was duly banned.)

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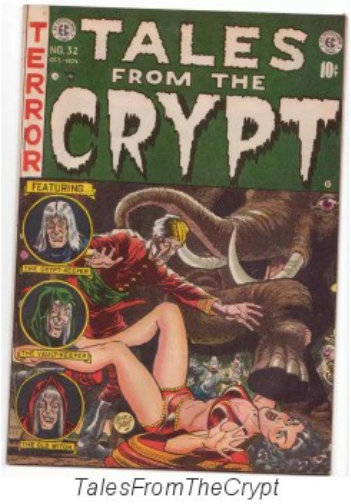
spread? And as it spread, the legend grew, as Tam Smith recalls – he was 7 when horror stalked the land of the dead:

> "There was an old lady who used to carry two cats in a basket. She would go to the graveyard to get peace away from the kids and let her cats have a wander. But she was in there the night we went looking for it and people were involving the 'cat woman' with the iron man. It was a shame when you think about it, she was an eccentric with wiry hair, but we called her Tin Lizzie. She was the iron man's 'burd'."



TalesFromTheCrypt

The *BBC* recalls the guilty:

The Blame for the vampire panic run-a-muck was laid on American horror comics, with the likes of *Tales From The Crypt, The Haunt of Fear* and *The Vault of Horror* becoming main targets.

The covers were fantastic.

Vault_of_Horror

So dangerous were these books that new laws were required to control them:

Word of the hunt only fueled the war against horror comics in the U.S., which the newly created Comics Code Authority had already pegged as potentially dangerous to the well being of children everywhere. All three titles were canceled in 1954, with the last issue of the original run of Tales From the Crypt printed in February, 1955.

The Comics Code Authority would curtail this **Secduction of the Innocent**.

Comic books lived by these rules (via ComicArtville). Please excuse the reprint of the code in full, but so many parts of it are choice that it is all worth reading:

PREAMBLE

The comic book medium, having come of age on the American cultural scene, must measure up to its responsibilities.

Constantly improving techniques and higher standards go hand in hand with these responsibilities.

To make a positive contribution to contemporary life, the industry must seek new areas for developing sound, wholesome entertainment. The people responsible for writing, drawing, printing, publishing and selling comic books have done a commendable job in the past, and have been striving toward this goal.

Their record of progress and continuing improvement compares favorably with other media in the communications industry. An outstanding example is the development of comic books as a unique and effective tool for instruction and education. Comic books have also made their contributiuon in the field of letters and criticism of contemporary life.

In keeping with the American tradition, the members of this industry will and must continue to work together in the future.

In this same tradition, members of the industry must see to it that gains made in this medium are not lost and that violations of standards of good taste, which might tend toward corruption of the comic book as an instructive and wholesome form of entertainment, will be eliminated.

Therefore, the Comics Magazine Association of America, Inc. has adopted this Code, and placed strong powers of enforcement in the hands of an independent Code Authority.

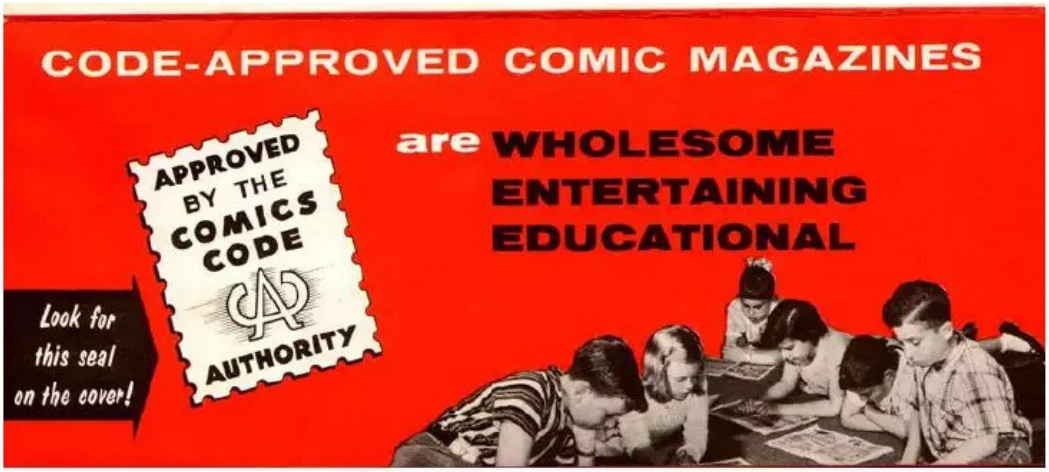
Further, members of the Association have endorsed the purpose and spirit of this Code as a virtual instrument to the growth of the industry.

To this end, they have pledged themselves to conscientiously adhere to its principles and to abide by all decisions based on the Code made by the Administrator.

They are confident that this positive and forthright statement will provide an effective bulwark for the protection and enhancement of the American reading public, and that it will become a landmark in the history of self-regulation for the entire communications industry.

CODE FOR EDITORIAL MATTER

General Standards Part A



Via

1. Crimes shall never be presented in such a way as to create sympathy for the criminal, to promote distrust of the forces of law and justice, or to inspire others with a desire to imitate criminals.

2. No comics shall explicitly present the unique details and methods of a crime.

3. Policemen, judges, government officials, and respected institutions shall never be presented in such a way as to create disrespect for established authority.

4. If crime is depicted it shall be as a sordid and unpleasant activity.

5. Criminals shall not be presented so as to be rendered glamorous or to occupy a position which creates the desire for emulation.

6. In every instance good shall triumph over evil and the criminal punished for his misdeeds.

7. Scenes of excessive violence shall be prohibited. Scenes of brutal torture, excessive and unnecessary knife and gun play, physical agony, gory and gruesome crime shall be eliminated.

8. No unique or unusual methods of concealing weapons shall be shown.

9. Instances of law enforcement officers dying as a result of a criminal's activities should be discouraged.

10. The crime of kidnapping shall never be portrayed in any detail, nor shall any profit accrue to the abductor or kidnapper. The criminal or the kidnapper must be punished in every case.

11. The letter of the word "crime" on a comics magazine shall never be appreciably greater than the other words contained in the title. The word "crime" shall never appear alone on a cover.

12. Restraint in the use of the word "crime" in titles or sub-titles shall be exercised.

General Standards Part B

1. No comics magazine shall use the word horror or terror in its title.

2. All scenes of horror, excessive bloodshed, gory or gruesome crimes, depravity, lust, sadism, masochism shall not be permitted.

3. All lurid, unsavory, gruesome illustrations shall be eliminated.

4. Inclusion of stories dealing with evil shall be used or shall be published only where the intent is to illustrate a moral issue and in no case shall evil be presented alluringly nor as to injure the sensibilities of the reader.

5. Scenes dealing with, or instruments associated with walking dead, torture, vampires and vampirism, ghouls, cannibalism and werewolfism are prohibited.

General Standards Part C

All elements or techniques not specifically mentioned herein, but which are contrary to the spirit and intent of the Code, and are considered violations of good taste or decency, shall be prohibited.

Dialogue

1. Profanity, obscenity, smut, vulgarity, or words or symbols which have acquired undesirable meanings are forbidden.

2. Special precautions to avoid references to physical afflictions of deformities shall be taken.

3. Although slang and colloquialisms are acceptable, excessive use should be discouraged and wherever possible good grammar shall be employed.

Religion

1. Ridicule or attack on any religious or racial group is never permissible.

Costume

1. Nudity in any form is prohibited, as is indecent or undue exposure.

2. Suggestive and salacious illustration or suggestive posture is unacceptable.

3. All characters shall be depicted in dress reasonably acceptable to society.

4. Females shall be drawn realistically without exaggeration of any physical qualities. NOTE: It should be recognized that all prohibitions dealing with costume, dialogue, or artwork apply as specifically to the cover of a comic magazine as they do to the contents.

Marriage and Sex

1. Divorce shall not be treated humorously nor represented as desirable.

2. Illicit sex relations are neither to be hinted at or portrayed. Violent love scenes as well as sexual abnormalities are unacceptable.

3. Respect for parents, the moral code, and for honorable behavior shall be fostered. A sympathetic understanding of the problems of love is not a license for moral distortion.

4. The treatment of love-romance stories shall emphasize the value of the home and the sanctity of marriage.

5. Passion or romantic interest shall never be treated in such a way as to stimulate the lower and baser emotions.

6. Seduction and rape shall never be shown or suggested. 7. Sex perversion or any inference to same is strictly forbidden.

CODE FOR ADVERTISING MATTER

These regulations are applicable to all magazines published by members of the Comics magazine Association of America, Inc. Good taste shall be the guiding principle in the acceptance of advertising.

1. Liquor and tobacco advertising is not acceptable.

2. Advertising of sex or sex instruction books are unacceptable.

3. The sale of picture postcards, “pin-ups,” “art studies,” or any other reproduction of nude or semi-nude figures is prohibited.

4. Advertising for the sale of knives, concealable weapons, or realistic gun facsimiles is prohibited.

5. Advertising for the sale of fireworks is prohibited.

6. Advertising dealing with the sale of gambling equipment or printed matter dealing with gambling shall not be accepted.

7. Nudity with meretricious purpose and salacious postures shall not be permitted in the advertising of any product; clothed figures shall never be presented in such a way as to be offensive or contrary to good taste or morals.

8. To the best of his ability, each publisher shall ascertain that all statements made in advertisements conform to the fact and avoid misinterpretation.

9. Advertisement of medical, health, or toiletry products of questionable nature are

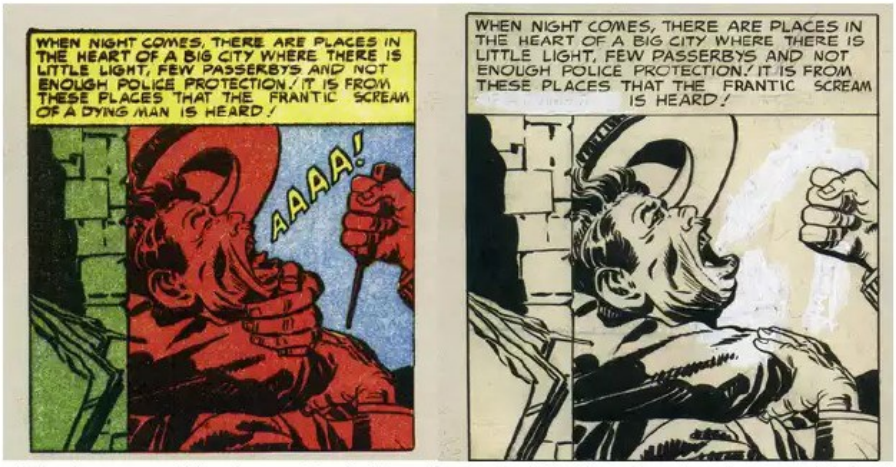
to be rejected. Advertisements for medical, health or toiletry products endorsed by the American Medical Association, or the American Dental Association, shall be deemed acceptable if they conform with all other conditions of the Advertising Code.

(text source: Comics Magazine Association of America. Facts about Code-Approved Comics Magazines. New York: the Association, 1959.)

Joe Sergi looks at a few examples of how the code changed comics.

A great example is a story called “The Invasion,” which appeared as a pre-Code story in Witches’ Tales #21 and then again as a post-Code story in Race for the Moon #1. This story is a great example of the type of changes that Code imposed as it contains both major and minor revisions.

Take a look at a comparison of two scenes in the book with the post Code version on the right. Notice that the original text wasn’t changed. So now, without the additional art, the text doesn’t really make sense.



[“The League of Handsome Devils” from Issue 2 of Fighting American] was published

[“The League of Handsome Devils” from Issue 2 of Fighting American] was published shortly before the Comics Code enveloped the U.S. comic book marketplace, dumbing things down and shoving the smaller publishers—like the one publishing Fighting American—off the newsstands and out of business.

In 1966, Joe Simon and Harvey comics… put out a Fighting American reprint book.… It was issued under the Code and the censors required changes, which were made right on the on the original art. Of particular note is the first panel of the second page. An ice pick, clearly visible in the original printing,

shortly before the Comics Code enveloped the U.S. comic book marketplace, dumbing things down and shoving the smaller publishers—like the one publishing Fighting American—off the newsstands and out of business. In 1966, Joe Simon and Harvey comics… put out a Fighting American reprint book…. It was issued under the Code and the censors required changes, which were made right on the on the original art. Of particular note is the first panel of the second page. An ice pick, clearly visible in the original printing, was surgically removed from the assailant's hand and some of the text was altered.

was surgically removed from the assailant's hand and some of the text was altered.

But about the Vampire with Iron Teeth…had it been in a comic?

Yes. Horropedia finds it:

Gorbals vampire

Gorbals vampire

So. It *was* the comics that had corrupted young minds.

Academics pointed out that none of the comics featured a vampire with iron teeth, though there was a monster with iron teeth in the bible (Daniel 7.7) and in a poem taught in local schools. Their voices were drowned out in a full-blown moral panic about the effect that terrifying comics were having on children. Soon the case of the "Gorbals Vampire" was international news.

The British Press raged against the "terrifying, corrupt," comics and after a heated debate in the House of Commons where the case of Gorbals Vampire was cited.

One part of that incredible debate went like this:

Mr. John Rankin (Glasgow, Tradeston):

> … I have in my possession copies of publications which were brought into this country by the American Forces….
>
> The Bill deals with children and, in my view, it is preserving the right of the child to grow up without having its mind deprived of the freedom that it ought to have—the freedom from pollution. That is an important consideration.
>
> These periodicals, of which I have an ample number here, are not merely horror

comics. They do not deal merely with the horror aspect of life; they deal with something much more fundamental. They make a more damaging attack than that, because the young child is not greatly influenced by this horror aspect. I think that it shakes it off very quickly. These periodicals pollute the mind of the child.

They divide human society into two classes. First, there are the whites. One need only look at them to see the ladies, glamourous and half naked, and the men with all the physical attributes of the finest specimens in humanity. These are the whites. Of course, one cannot talk of every publication, and I am discussing the periodicals as a whole. The evil people are invariably those who are coloured.

In other words, these magazines identify evil with colour—either the colour of the skin or the colour of an idea. They imprison the mind of the young. They act as propagandist journals to spread an idea that all the good things, all the virtues, physical and mental, belong to one colour in the human society, and all the evil things are mated with those who are coloured differently from the race to which we belong.

That is a wrong thing to do. It is propaganda influencing the mind of the young along lines which every one of us deplores, as one knows from speeches which are made regularly in this House calling for the development of the underdeveloped parts of the world. We want to raise the standards of these people. We do not want to train our young to look 1149 upon them as necessarily associated in any way with evil ideas.

But these magazines go a stage beyond that, because wherever we have evil they show that it has to be hunted down. The type of justice that is vindicated is not the type of justice for which this House stands. It is not the type of justice that we believe in. It is summary justice, executed on the spot and often of the most brutal and sadistic nature. That is the evil in these journals. In that way they imprison the tender growing minds of the young. I hope that the Bill will be received with complete approval from both sides of the House, because it seeks to free the mind of our youth from these evil influences…

Last September a school in the Gorbals division of Glasgow closed for the day. By some system of bush telegraph, no one knows how, and as the children poured out of school, the word went round like wildfire that there was a vampire in a nearby cemetery; that this vampire had iron teeth and had eaten two young children. With that prattle, there went talk of space ships and men from Mars, and all the time there was talk about a monster. The “monster” had gripped the minds of the children, and so they armed themselves with sticks and stones and anything they could obtain, because they were out on a great mission—to destroy evil, to destroy the monster.

That is always a good thing, so we are told, although in Scotland, we must remember, there are good monsters and 1150 bad monsters. In the north of Scotland we have a loch called Loch Ness. It is inhabited by a monster, and

The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus Train Disaster

weeklyview.net

June 20, 2013
Al Hunter

When I was a kid, like most Hoosiers, I visited Chicago often. I was as big a history nerd back then as I am today. I made sure to visit the obvious places: the St. Valentines Day Massacre site, the alley next to the Biograph Theatre where Johnny Dillinger breathed his last, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field, McCormick Place (site of the Century of Progress World's Fair of 1933-34). But there was another Chicago location that I insisted on visiting as a kid, regardless of the vocal protestations of my parents. It's a small plot of land inside Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois known as "Showmen's Rest." And the event that brought me there happened 95 years ago this week.

In the early pre-dawn hours of Saturday June 22, 1918, a Michigan Central Railroad troop train struck the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train near Ivanhoe, Indiana. Located in the center of the geographic triangle between Hammond, East Chicago and Gary, Ivanhoe never knew what hit 'em.

On that fateful morning, the 26-car circus train, consisting of an engine, four sleepers, five stock cars, fifteen flat cars and a caboose, was heading from Illinois into Hammond, Indiana, with 400 performers and roustabouts asleep in the rear cars. The train had stopped on the Michigan Central tracks near Ivanhoe to fix an overheated axle box. The flagman went back on the main track and set fuses as a warning of danger. The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train had been moved onto a siding while it awaited clearance to proceed onto the line to Hammond where the circus was due to perform. The rear of the train, however, had not cleared the mainline tracks.

At 3:56 a.m., engineer Alonzo K. Sargent fell asleep. He never saw the danger on the tracks ahead as his empty twenty-one car troop train plowed into the rear of the stationary train at 60 mph. Despite the warning signals, lanterns and flares blanketing the track leading up to the stalled train, 86 people died and 127 were injured. Many of those bodies were recovered from the burnt-out wreckage of the wooden, gas-lit passenger cars. The runaway train finally came to a grinding halt atop the fourth car from the rear in a deafening cacophony of metal and splintered wood. Most of the 86 dead perished within the first 30 seconds of the wreck. Then, just as the nightmare seemed to be over, the train caught on fire.

Fire, fed by the gas-lighting system of the circus train, quickly engulfed the train. As the first responders reached the scene, the entire wreckage was a blazing inferno. Clowns, bareback riders, trapeze performers and acrobats, many of them veterans of the circus world, perished instantly in the crash while others were suffocated or burned to death. The Gary fire department was hamstrung further in their rescue attempts due to a lack of water supply. Survivors struggled about the wreck screaming for relatives or friends and many had to be physically restrained from rushing back into the blazing wreckage.

Hours after the crash, bodies were still being recovered from the pile of debris. There were numerous pitiful scenes at the wreck and later in the hospitals. Joe Coyle, a clown, convulsed on a stretcher and wept bitterly beside the bodies of his wife and two babies who had been crushed to death just inches away from him inside one of the death cars.

Adding to the chaos, rumors sped through the area that several lions, tigers, elephants and

bears had escaped from the train into the woods south of the wreck. Circus authorities explained that there were no wild animals on the train. Another report claimed that one demented circus woman had run from the train, evaded the doctors and disappeared into the woods. It's easy to imagine the wild rumors that must have swept that small town after a tragedy of this magnitude.

Engineer Alonzo K. Sargent was arrested that same night and charged with multiple counts of manslaughter. The headlines of the local papers explained the tragedy in detailed, sometimes colorful, terms: SIXTY HEROES OF THE SAWDUST RING PERISH IN FLAMING WRECK AS TRAIN CUTS THRU CARS... SOMEBODY'S BLUNDER COSTS IN KILLED AND INJURED 189 CASUALTIES OF WALLACE-HAGENBACK CIRCUS...PERFORMERS WEAKENED BY CRASH TO DIE IN FLAMES... FAMILIES LONG KNOWN TO PUBLIC AS FAVORITES ARE DECIMATED OR SWEPT TO ETERNITY. Despite being found responsible by federal transportation officials (the cause was sleeping on the job, they said) Engineer Sargent was acquitted.

Thirty-eight bodies were taken to Gary undertakers, twenty-two were taken to Hammond. Later, more bodies were pulled from the wreckage and still more died in the hospital afterwards. Four days after the crash, survivors gathered at Woodlawn Cemetery, where the Showmen's League of America had just recently selected a burial plot for members, never imagining that it would be used so soon. The Showmen's League of America was formed in 1913 with Buffalo Bill Cody as its first president.

Walk into Woodlawn cemetery, located at the intersection of Cermak Road and Des Plaines Avenue in Forest Park, Illinois, and the first thing you'll notice are the five elephant statues encircling the plot containing 750 grave sites known as Showmen's Rest. The rumor, perpetuated by generations of Illinois schoolchildren and spread through classrooms all over the Midwest, is that there were 5 elephants killed in the train wreck. The elephants tried in vain to use their trunks to extinguish the burning circus cars, only to die for their efforts. The pachyderm heroes were too heavy to be moved and were buried near the spot where they fell. Contrarily, the statues actually outline the site of the mass grave containing the mortal remains of the unfortunate Hagenbeck-Wallace circus employees killed on the circus train in the early days of World War I.

Forest Park, the site of Showmen's Rest, is a town of cemeteries, marking the historical fringe of metropolitan Chicago. Public transportation terminated here, so it seemed like the perfect place for Chicago's deceased populace. Today, strip malls and fast food joints have crept in, but endless fields of monuments still silently greet the Windy City visitor.

Services for the circus train tragedy were held five days after the train wreck. The identity of many victims of the wreck was unknown; some were roustabouts and temporary workers hired just hours or days before. Only a dozen or so of the headstones have names, most of the markers note "unidentified male" (or female). One is marked "Smiley," another "Baldy," and "4 Horse Driver." The Flying Wards, a trapeze act, lost a member; every one of the McDhu Sisters, who rode elephants and did aerial stunts, died. Two strongmen died. Showmen's Rest continues to fill up today, with deceased showmen performing at that biggest of Big Tops.

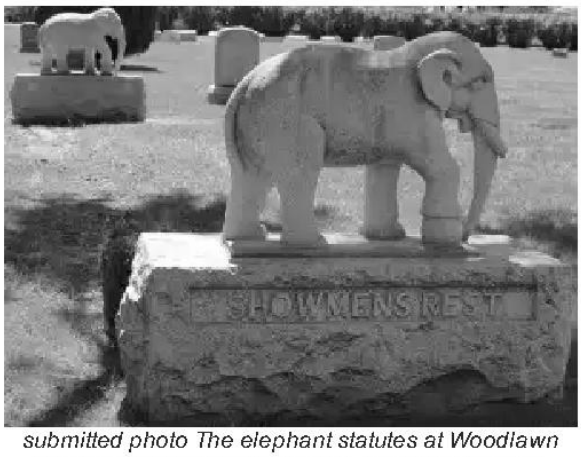
Following the wreck, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus had to cancel only two performances: the one in Hammond, Indiana and its next stop Monroe, Wisconsin. This was due in part by the assistance by many of its so-called competitors, including Ringling Brothers and Barnum

and Bailey Circus lending needed equipment and performers so that the show could go on. The Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, formed in 1907 and headquartered in Peru, Ind. (now the site of the International Circus Hall of Fame), had become one of the most popular circuses in the country. Famed lion tamer Clyde Beatty was a member. So was a young Red Skelton, tagging alongside his father, a Hagenbeck-Wallace clown.

The city of Hammond also joined in to help the surviving circus performers and workers. Many of the city's residents and shopkeepers gave food and clothing as well. The five elephant statues each have a foot raised with a ball underneath, and the trunks lowered. (Raised trunks are a symbol of joy and excitement; lowered trunks symbolize mourning.) The base of the large central elephant is inscribed with "Showmen's League of America." On the others are the words "Showmen's Rest." Some nearby residents say the trumpeting sounds of ghostly elephants can often be heard at night, even though there were no elephants buried there and the statues weren't added until years after the train wreck. And for those looking for an explanation for the sounds, Brookfield Zoo is only a few miles away.

The history of the train wreck is a mix of the good, sad and curious. The accident led to regulations mandating sleep for train crews. Oddly, nine years later, a passenger train moving through Aurora, Indiana (near Cincinnati, Ohio) hit a herd of elephants being loaded onto another Hagenbeck-Wallace train; there was one fatality, a handler riding one of the elephants was thrown to the ground and crushed to death when the animal tumbled. But my memory? I recall that there was nothing at Showmen's Rest, or for that matter at the site of the tragedy, that mentions the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus disaster, the loss of life or anything about June 22, 1918. You had to know it's there to know it's there. Now you too know it's there.

Al Hunter is the author of "Haunted Indianapolis" and co-author of the "Indiana National Road" and "Haunted Irvington" book series. Contact Al directly at Huntvault@aol.com or become a friend on Facebook.



submitted photo The elephant statutes at Woodlawn Cemetery mark the area where victims of the train disaster were laid to rest.

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The Haunting Legend Of Happy Valley New York

lite987.com

ByPhil NyeApril 17, 2015 11:52 AM

aNdreas Schindl/ThinkStock/TSM

During the early 1900s, one of the defining events in American history was the Great Depression. Triggered by an extreme drop in the stock market after the relative prosperity of the turn of the century, the Great Depression affected the entire United States. Families lost their businesses, their homes, their farms. Occurring at the same time as the Dust Bowl, families migrated west to California, lured by promises of jobs and financial security, leaving their homes abandoned.

Despite recent economic downturns, it seems hard to believe that there could have been a time where things were so bad financially that the entire population of a country could be affected (with the exception of a few incredibly wealthy families).

NY Shadow Chasers

Happy Valley was a bustling village just north of the larger city of Syracuse. Legend states that during 1930's, the entire village was wiped out by a plague, leaving empty shells of the community behind. Houses, a church, and a one room school house are all reminders of this tragedy touched village.

However, legends don't always equal fact. Happy Valley was indeed abandoned in the 1930's, but for much less sinister reasons. During the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt made efforts to artificially stimulate the economy through the use of government funded projects. A lot of these projects ended up being 'busy work', but accomplished their designated task of provided jobs and income to poor communities. It was during this time when the National Park Service was created, as a way to preserve our nation's forests, while also providing critical jobs.

Due to its location, Happy Valley was selected as a location for a preserved forest. A farming town, many of its residents were struggling. The government offered them money for their land, money that allowed them to relocate and find employment elsewhere. The structures within the town were left as is, creating the ghost town that can be visited today.

Of course, just because a location doesn't have a traumatic history doesn't mean that it isn't haunted. Happy Valley has been frequently visited by paranormal investigators, who report strange voices, sounds, and strange floating lights.

It seems like the old residents of Happy Valley may come back to visit, periodically.

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THE HOME OF THE ANCESTORS

The ancestors of the New Zealand Maoris have a definite ancestral home from which they came to New Zealand. This bears the name Hawaiki which is the same as Hawai'i as also Savai'i in Samoa. Some students try to make Samoa the distributing centre from which the settlers of the various island groups of the Pacific started to find new homes. This theory has scarcely any foundation.

Hawaii in some form of the word is found from Java on the western side of the Pacific to Tahiti on the eastern. Hon. L. Percy Smith of New Zealand says: "The universality of this name points to the fact that it is extremely ancient and that it was under that form the Fatherland was originally known. The way in which the name has been used proves the belief of the Polynesians in a western origin of the race now accepted as from India. Hawa in its many forms refers to rice fields, the great rice fields of Indonesia."

While Hawaii is used so frequently elsewhere, it is seldom named in the Hawaiian Islands as the ancestral home. Fornander, in "The Polynesian Race," quotes from an ancient chant, "Hawaii with the green back and dotted sea," and says this refers to the ancient far-away home of the Hawaiians. This reference stands almost alone, and therefore emphasizes the statement that the word Hawaiian seldom refers to any land outside the group now called the Hawaiian Islands. This has probably come from the inability of the people to distinguish between a foreign Hawaii and a home Hawaii, although for centuries they have said "Hawaii nei," meaning "the Hawaii in this spot," as they say "hale nei, " meaning "this particular house in which we are." Almost certainly this has no reference to an ancestral home.

The Hawaiians, however, had one word for all outside lands. This was Kahiki or Tahiti. If any one sailed to any far-away place, east or west, he went to Kahiki.

The ancient Hawaiian chants also mention places or rather islands in the western and southwestern parts of the Pacific Ocean, as Bolabola, Nuuhiwa, Wawau or Vavau, and Upolu. These places were visited by the Hawaiian sea-rovers several hundred years ago and the names preserved in meles, or

{p. 261}

chants. Usually these places are mentioned as located in the great mysterious outside world Kahiki. They are not called the home from which the forefathers came. They are only definite place,; visited by sea-roving Hawaiians in their long journeys to foreign lands.

Besides this, there were some beautiful descriptive terms naming the ancestral islands or lands from which the "ancient ones came to Hawaii."

The most prominent was Kuai-he-lani or Kua-i-he-lani. Kuai-he-lani was defined by one of the best Hawaiian scholars as "the purchased heaven." This, however, is a modern thought, read

into it from theology. Another and better rendering is "the rubbing or grinding heaven," as if the land had been stirred up by earthquakes or by strife among the inhabitants. If the name is Kua-i-he-lani, it means "a heaven lifted up in sharp ridges," signifying that the people came from a land of high mountains with sharp peaks, a volcanic country.

Kane-huna-moku (the hidden land of Kane) belonged more to the spirit world than the home of the ancestors. it was like an "ignis fatuus," a thing which appeared and disappeared. It was an enticing island, inviting boatmen to seek its shores and then disappearing as they came near. It was the Hawaiian dreamland. Nevertheless, sometimes it was mentioned as one of the places from which the ancestors came.

Nuu-mea-lani (the raised dais of heaven),, meaning a land with elevated plateaus and possibly rich valleys among high mountains, was a place from which many of the people of the past came to the new volcano land. Sometimes it simply means "cloud land."

Ulu-kaa (moving or floating forest) was like Kane-huna-moku, an ocean island which had no abiding place. Storm-driven voyagers would see it through the mist clouds around them. They would put forth every effort to reach it and never find it, or, if found, its sweet fruits and fragrant flowers were like dust to those who ate or breathed them, ultimately bringing death. Nevertheless, Ulu-kaa was a land from which the ancestors came.

Hapa-kuela is very seldom mentioned in the legends. Its meaning is very obscure. It is possible that it may be Hapaku-wela. Then it might mean the burning or fiery portions or walls between land districts. This was a home of

{p. 262}

Pele according to some of the Hawaiian legends, although most of them say that she came from Kuai-he-lani.

Ke-alohi-lani (the shining or glorious heaven) was the where the vivid imagination placed all things beautiful. It was the ancient land to be desired. Another interpretation, however, makes it the land of shining clouds, probably lit by volcanic fires, reflecting the glory of the burning flames.

Moku-mana-mana (the divided island) was some island projecting into thc ocean like branches from a tree, an island with bays and inlets.. This was one of the places to be desired among thc different lands from which the ancestors came. Now it is only known as one of the ancestral places lying toward the sunset.

{p. 263}

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The Legend of Excalibur Sword of San Galgano

contactoparanormal.us

We all know the legend of **King Arthur and the Sword in the Stone** , and usually we place in the Middle Ages, in the area of England, but as we shall see, perhaps the true origin of this legend or myth you are somewhat far from land English, in full Tuscany Italian.

The history of **San Galgano** is strange, born in **Chiusdino in 1148** (according to legend, by grace of the Archangel Michael), where his parents Guido and Dionisia.
Galgano Guidotti had a carefree life (some sources say up somewhat libertine) to more than twenty years, when twice appeared to him in dreams **Archangel Michael** .

Thus begins the conversion of Galgano young man who begins to preach in Siena and surroundings until his retirement at the cabin that will become his hermitage at Monte Siepi.

The next day, Galgano announced it was going to be a hermit and went to live in a cave. Your friends and relatives ridiculed, and Denise, his mother asked him to wear clothes noble rich again and it was to say goodbye to his fiancee. Galgano, made his way to fulfill the wish of his mother, but his horse reared, throwing him to the ground, as he heard a heavenly voice urging him again to leave their easy life, then have a meeting with Pope Alexander III who blesses and encourages him to build an abbey near the shrine.

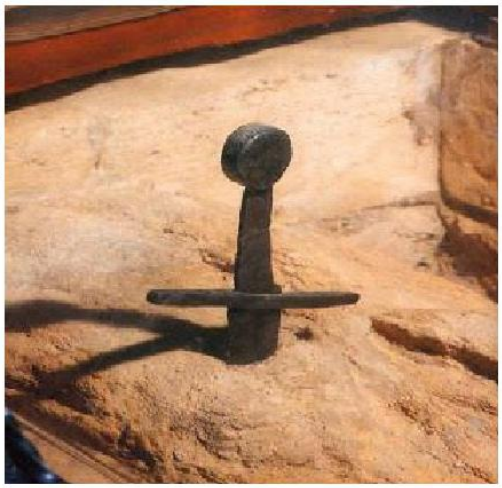
Return to the chapel and among the despair of his mother and his fiancee Polissena and sarcasm of the other knights, made his only known miracle. Deep thrusts his sword in the stone (in 1180) to form a cross with the handle

may also like: 10 Reasons To Kill JF Kennedy

He died at age 33 on December 3, 1181, the year of the birth of San Francisco.
According to legend, his funeral was attended by bishops of Volterra (Ildebrando Pannocchieschi), Massa Marittima and Siena and the Cistercian abbots of Fossanova.
After his death, was erected a chapel that still exists. Forty years later, the Cistercians built at the foot of Mount Siepi, an abbey which bore the name Galgano and it was very prosperous

at the time. As a consequence, San Galgano became so popular that it claimed Cistercians, and Augustinians, every man for himself as one of their own.

He was canonized in 1185.



By fault or merit of human stupidity, currently the sword in the stone is protected by a glass case antivandal proof stupid. A man broke his sword in 1992 for attempting to remove it. The handle was welded to the sheet again and was protected by a plexiglass case.

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By Chris Savia on 06/11/2014 whofortedblog.com

The Legendary Lake On Your iPad Is Haunted!

pyramid_lake

With the popularity of Apple's iGadgets spreading like capitalistic cancer, everyone's acquainted with its iconic wallpaper, Richard Misrach's Pyramid Lake (at Night).

Beneath those depths lay a far greater menace beyond the imaginings of any Starbucks hipster. Nearly every year, someone ends up drowning at the lake. Bodies are rarely recovered by authorities. Park Rangers chalk it up to bad luck, and ill-prepared tourists, but Native Americans know the score.

waterbaby

Once upon a time, a Paiute boy fell in love with a mermaid from the California coast. Bursting with pride, he brought her home to meet the tribe, only to be rejected because she was a weird cryptid-fae monster. Understandably upset, she cursed the waters.

Evidence of her spite arose not too long after the rejection. A serpent slithered out from the lake, ate a kid, and took on its form, as was the fashion at the time. When the mother returned to feed her baby, it was like Soviet Russia where baby eats you! To save her life, the medicine man made a deal with this devil, allowing it to dwell in those waters if it let the young mother go.

So begins the tale of the water babies. These malign water spirits can be heard by visitors, but natives warn the palefaces, "If you hear it, it's bad news; if you see it, you're dead!"1

stone_mother

One of the other legends haunting these waters regards the Stone Mother. Once a mere mortal, infatuated with the Great Father she murdered her husband so she could stalk her one and only love. Strangely enough, probably because he was a god, Great Father wasn't creeped out, they fell in love, and it wasn't long before they were blessed with many children.

The oldest son was an asshole, constantly picking on his siblings. At wit's end, the Great Father scattered them far and wide so he could have some peace and quiet at long last. The kids ended up founding their own tribes, but upon returning to their homeland, the feuding started all over again. Stunned, their mother wept 'til her tears filled the lake. She sat in the same place so long that she turned to stone, still sitting there to this day.2

Next time you're futzing with your iPad, consider changing your device's wallpaper. Heaven forbid your Angry Birds session is interrupted by the eerie cooing of a demonic baby. Should you survive, consider telling us about it on our Facebook page, at Twitter, or in the comments below!

1. https://suite.io/sharon-damon/5nrb2a1 ↩

2. http://nevadatrivia.com/nevada-history/pyramid-lakes-stone-mother/ ↩

Chris Savia

2 Comments

1. Steena Cee

06/11/2014 at 7:46 PM

My kids have Ipads through school. Should I be worried there is some evil conspiracy going on???? jk! lol

2. Ryan M.

06/11/2014 at 8:14 PM

(*.*)s~
Trippy, dude.
^that's a smoking smiley.
(in case you didn't know)

why are you still reading this?
(*.*)s~

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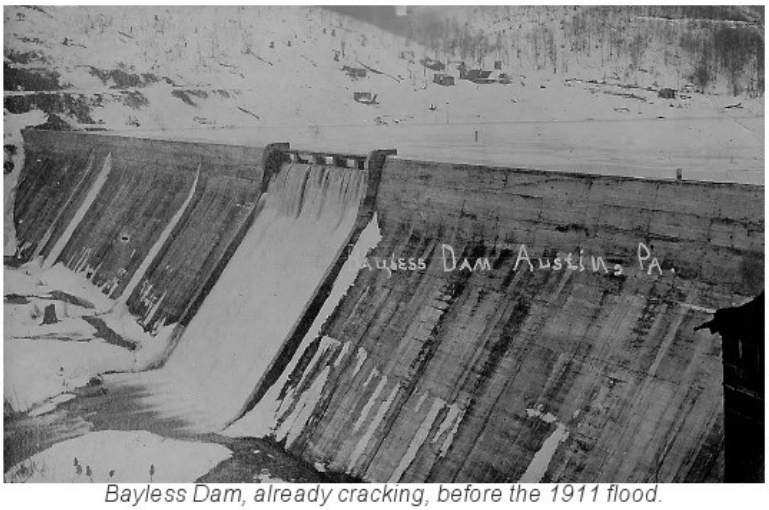
By Ken Summers on 01/30/2014 whofortedblog.com

Overshadowed and forgotten by the more disastrous Johnstown Flood of 1889, the Austin Dam Flood—dubbed the "Austin Horror" in newspapers—was a great tragedy which cost the lives of at least 78 people. Yet perhaps such a high death toll could have been prevented. A mysterious figure stalked the town for the year before the September 30, 1911, flood. Was it just a ghost or a warning left unheeded?

In January before the dam collapsed, another flood of a lesser scale happened in Austin, Pennsylvania. The force of the water caused the dam across Freeman Run to move a few inches downstream, causing a panic among the citizens. Built in 1909, the dam was used by the Bayless Pulp & Paper Mill to power the facility. Though the company had planned on building a 30-foot-thick concrete dam, it settled on a cheaper 20 feet of thickness. But it didn't take long for them to realize their decision was a mistake. The dam bowed out 36 feet under the weight of water within the first months of its construction and cracks kept forming.



Bayless Dam, already cracking, before the 1911 flood.

But when the whole dam moved during that January flood, the townspeople weren't waiting around to see what would happen next. Residents fled to higher land in the surrounding hills, waiting nervously in the pouring rain to see if their homes would be swept away in a great torrent. The dam managed to hold that time, but there was something else that made the residents nervous about returning home. The Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad yard had a strange visitor lurking in the shadows.

The Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad depot in Austin, Pa.

The rail line was first built for hauling lumber in 1885 as the Sinnemahoning Valley Railroad (formed by Frank Goodyear), but became a branch of the B&S during a merger of several railroads in 1893. The railroad shops (where maintenance and repairs take place) in Austin burned down on two occasions: once in 1901 and again in 1906, destroying one of the Goodyear Lumber Company stores. While that seems a likely time for a ghost story to start circulating the town, it was another

4 years before the strange man started to appear.

GHOST STORY FROM AUSTIN

Spook Appeared About a Year Before Big Dam Broke on September 30 Last.

"September 30 was the first anniversary of the Austin flood, which destroyed the Potter county town and drowned many of its inhabitants," says the Kinzua County Times. "It is known that the people of Austin had a scare early in the spring when the high water and pressure moved the dam a few inches from its foundation, and the residents took to the hills where they remained all night and part of the next day until the water receded. But it is not generally known that the residents had another scare shortly before this when a ghost appeared that frightened some of the people and was the talk of the town.

"While the people were on the hillside a search was made in Lock Haven to report the situation to the state, which, with its family, were much saddened and worried. Sinister all kinds of rumors were heard. One rumor a flood had it that the dam had broken with horrible results. The young man called on the writer before returning to Austin and told about how and the other folks who were on the hill in the chilly rain expecting the big dam to break at any moment and to realize more or carry away their homes, stores and other buildings before their eyes. Before leaving he mentioned the ghost and related a few words of the ghostly tale that was the talk of the town until the shocking conditions of the dam seemingly scared away the ghost and the talk.

"In the railroad yard an aged man and the cars were the place the ghost haunted and frightened the railroaders with its queer and spooky actions. It was a very tall man ghost, dressed in black that would appear and disappear mysteriously, and no questions asked, for those who saw it did not care to ask questions of its business. The railroad man accidentally fell unaware or scared with a ghost riding their cars and none of them attempted to put it off when they saw it crawling between and running over the cars.

"About a year after the arrival of the ghost the huge dam broke, with the awful result that will always be remembered by those who witnessed the horrible scenes. In their great misfortune, following the flood, the Austin people who fortunately escaped with nothing valuable but their lives, to put about a little while the a ghost; and the ghost must have been scared off by the flood talk or lost his life in the flood.

"The newspapers who brought the tales about the apparition to Lock Haven, when the ghost dressed in black was doing the ghost walk at Austin, figured prominently in the stories of the flood, as he was one of the many heroes of the disaster. He was a newspaper man, and by good luck happened to be at hand when the dam broke, and sent out the first news of the catastrophe, which ran well written, considering the situation and the fearful story to tell the outside world. Immediately the newspapers and magazines had their best writers and photographers on the way to Austin. The professional writers and news gatherers got tell of the ghost because the survivors of the flood were stunned and for that reason failed to recall what happened before the rising of the water and breaking of the dam with all its indescribable effects.

"Everybody was occupied dazed in the flood had a sad tale to tell the correspondents, but none mentioned the ghost. If they did, one of the secret friends might have burst his story of the flood with a ghost yarn. In Austin, and being a spirit from the other side of life that came to warn the people of their danger and then ran to shelter; and that nobody cared to talk the ghost. The writer might have started us. But never story truthfully. Who knows?"

The Honesdale Citizen article about the "ghost" sightings.

Though residents called it a ghost, there's no indication that the strange figure was some translucent wraith, moaning and rattling chains and haunting the living. Actually, it was described as being "a very tall man… dressed in black that would appear and disappear mysteriously". Railroad workers were frightened by its "queer and spooky actions" which included riding inside the passenger cars, lurking about the tracks, and "crawling between and running over the cars".

A tall man dressed entirely in black. Either Slender Man liked trains or could this shadowy, weirdly-acting "person" have been one of the legendary Men in Black? While we often think of the MIB as being threatening figures trying to silence alien abductees or policing extraterrestrials in snazzy black cars, there have been many reports of them performing odd activities or being pranksters. Most notably, they act very strangely and seem puzzled by the simplest of objects.

The sightings came to an end around the time of the September 30th flood. The Bayless Dam gave away, destroying the mill and most of the town of Austin. People were killed as far downstream as Costello. Debris, railroad equipment, houses, and automobile tires littered the valley. And while the official count of the dead stopped at 78, some speculate that at least 88 people died in total. You might think that was the end of the disasters for Austin, but it happened one more time in 1943.

A panoramic view of the flood damage. (Library of Congress)

Following the 1911 flood, residents were in such shock and too busy trying to recover their losses to mention the strange black-clad figure to reporters. It wasn't until the one-year anniversary of the flood that a reporter for the *Honesdale Citizen* wrote up an article about it for the October 9th issue. And as mysteriously as he came, the story of the man in black once more faded into obscurity.

Many people believe that sightings of the Mothman near Point Pleasant, West Virginia, were warnings about the collapse of the Silver Bridge across the Ohio River. Could the same be true of this mysterious "man in black"? What happened to the strange man in black around the time of the flood? Was he swept away, tired of haunting Austin, or did he turn into Mothman and fly away to West Virginia? Remnants of the mill still can be seen at what is now Austin Dam Memorial Park. Oh yeah… and there are rumors of buried money still left in the area, too.

What are your thoughts? Was it a ghost, an ill omen of disaster, an MIB, or something

The ruins of Bayless Dam as they appear today.

else? Talk about it on Facebook, Twitter, or leave your two cents in the comments below.

Ken Summers

You may also like...

7 Comments

1. Douglas Burchill

02/13/2014 at 2:37 PM

Another great article. I just finished the one about the tragic Corpsewood murders and I look forward to reading more. Concerning this article, as resident of Pennsylvania, I finally have a chance to use some of my fairly useless accumulated knowledge of PA folklore.

Here, in central PA, he was known as "der Ausleger." The story amongst the old German families is that he was a spirit that followed the early settlers from their homeland. Apparently, there were a lot of bloody land wars occurring in Germany at the time, and people wanted to get away and start somewhere new.

A straight translation of "Ausleger" means "interpreter," but in the Pennsylvania German dialects it's come to mean "Undertaker." He certainly seems to be some kind of entity connected with death, but not just a harbinger. Der Ausleger has also been known to show up after someone has died to ensure that proper respect has been payed to the deceased. Before the 20th century, the PA Germans followed very strict rituals concerning cleaning and burial of the dead, as well as a feast celebrating the life of the deceased afterward. The legend is that der Ausleger watched and sometimes attended funerals and feasts to make sure they were following the rules.

- Ken Summers

  02/14/2014 at 6:03 AM

  Thanks, Douglas! I appreciate the insight.

  Der Ausleger sounds a bit like The Grim Reaper after his department of death was downsized and he was given added responsibilities. What still puzzles me is why he would visit the town for a full year leading up to the accident. Perhaps it was the looming threat of death and disaster caused by the faulty dam? Or was it the sheer number of deaths coming soon that made him work overtime?

2. Sabrina Holden

03/29/2014 at 8:22 PM

Great article! Just found this website and I love it. Keep up the great work.

3. Pingback: Case of the Mondays: Real horror, fake horror. Justin Bieber nipple biting. It's all in a post Super Bowl wrap | My Website

4. Pingback: Case of the Mondays: Real horror, fake horror. Justin Bieber nipple biting. It's all in a post Super Bowl wrap | HORROR REPORT

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The mysterious Milford ghost

examiner.com

A ghost once walked the streets of historic Milford CT
Courtesy of Flickr

Milford, Connecticut was terrorized in the fall of 1888 by a ghost they claimed to be eight feet tall and possessed big flaring, red eyes!
There was a large body of citizens in town that owned shot guns and revolvers who would have been delighted to use the ghost for a target for just five minutes! The spirit's maneuvers were confined to the southwestern part of the town. Within a week citizens of Milford said the ghost from the supernatural regions frightened two young women almost to death!

One of these ladies lived near the west end of Broad Street. She would never forget her first, and hopefully the last experience with the white robed specter. She was walking home between 8:00 and 9:00 PM when, without warning, she felt something tugging at her sacque (a loose fitting jacket). The town had been talking about the ghost for several days prior to her encounter. No wonder the lone female shuddered.

Her first thought she could get through her thoroughly upset mind was of the much gossiped ghost. She was right. The ghost was there at her side. The sight was about as overwhelming to the nervous system as any such fearful specter could be! There stood what she could only describe as a monster—a gigantic eight feet tall, He was equipped with eyes as large as a tennis ball and as red as fire. The eyes were dancing in his head—if their rapid rolling in the sockets could be called dancing. Not a whisper came from the hideous ghostly object.

The frightened girl finally managed to let out a scream to alarm the nearby quiet community. That prompted the ghost to get serious too. He began to tug at the young woman's sacque and before she could get away from his grip, he had torn the sacque and the skirt of her dress. During her struggle for liberty the woman shouted for help!

This seemed to have a discouraging effect on the ghost and he finally vanished as rapidly as does a candle light when blown out. The last that was seen of him was his eyes that looked in the distance like tow red balls of fire.

Another young woman residing in that neighborhood had a less harrowing experience. She saw the ghost approaching her and immediately ran for her home as fast as her feet could carry her—screaming all the way!

The mystery hum is back! Plymouth residents complain of 'strange droning noise'

April 18th 2015 plymouthherald.co.uk

By Plymouth Herald | Posted: April 16, 2015

By SAM BLACKLEDGE Herald reporter

• Herald reporters Emma Elder, Meiling DellaGrotte and Emily Smith investigate the mystery hum

DO you remember the mysterious story about a low-pitched humming noise which left scientists baffled and caused residents to cover their ears?

Last summer The Herald reported on the strange phenomenon creating a stir across the Plymouth area.

We thought the nuisance noise had disappeared, but now it seems to be back and more disruptive than ever.People have reported hearing the noise at night in Keyham, Devonport, West Park and St Budeaux.

Pat Finnie, who lives in Normandy Way, St Budeaux, says she and her husband have noticed the "melodic, droning" sound returning.

"I have heard it several times over the last few weeks and then on Monday and Tuesday this week," Mrs Finnie said.

"You begin to wonder whether it's you, your ears, but my husband said he could hear it too, and he doesn't usually notice it.

"My neighbours have been aware of it too, several people say they have heard the same thing."It's a very low, almost melodic sort of sound.

"You wake up and thought it was something in the house. You can't say it's loud, but it's a nuisance.

"We don't hear it in the daytime, only at night."

The strange droning noise – which only two per cent of people can hear – was first reported in the 1970s.

People as far apart as New Mexico and Somerset have been complaining about the 'mystery hum' ever since, with some saying it has driven them mad.

Bizarrely, the irritating noise is usually heard in rural areas – and only ever indoors and is also apparently louder at night.

It has been blamed on everything from electricity pylons to sonar waves.

But boffins are still scratching their heads 40 years on.

Yesterday we asked users of our Facebook page for their theories.

Sharon Childs said she thinks it is caused by tinnitus, Dylan Finley reckons it could be aliens, while Jordan Hewitt said: "It's the magnetic fields around the earth and sounds bouncing back. Sometimes a hum, sometimes loud like trumpets. A worldwide phenomenon."

Tina Wills has a theory that it is coming from the dockyard, and Richard Williams thinks it is "election babble".

Daisy Rose said: "I hear it mostly at night when it's quiet and I'm watching TV."I have to keep pausing it because it's so annoying. It does sound electrical in a way. Strange!"

> Do you remember the 'mystery hum' which dozens of city residents reported hearing last year? Well, it seems it might be...
>
> Posted by Plymouth Herald on Thursday, 16 April 2015

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "No complaints have been received."If this noise is really being heard across Plymouth

it is unlikely to originate from the Naval Base."We have constant generators here but they are not loud enough to be heard by anyone but the nearest residents."

According to a recent study in Geophysical Research Letters, the hum comes from so-called microseismic activity, largely due to ocean waves.

12 comments

- Ho-Hum | April 18 2015, 4:17AM

  For those of us who are suffering with this noise (highly sensitive to low frequency sound) its a serious problem...for those who are posting humourous comment...go to a joke page! - its really irritating. I'd like to gather a support network for all fellow sufferers, for mutual empathy - trying to find solutions to manage.. ..please reply to me here

- Ho-Hum | April 18 2015, 4:10AM

  I can hear it now, have lost so much sleep over several weeks now, its affecting my work, fear for my job and livelihood.

- mutleyhifi | April 17 2015, 9:27AM

  I think there are two plausible theories. 1. Mains frequency hum resonating. During the day sound resonates out in all directions, at night due to the colder layers of air, sound can be bent back down to the ground. The 50 Hz mains frequencies from outdoor transformers, pylons, street lights, peoples houses etc resonate with the sound coming from transformers in the house such as fridges and all the millions of little power supplies we have these days and at night when it is quieter so you'd have a better chance of hearing it. Some people however, may not hear such low frequencies. Also, perhaps mains harmonics change at night due to the grid not being under so much load. Perhaps even the increase in solar panels to the grid could add to this. 2. As mentioned about sound being bent due to cold air layers, this could also happen to traffic on main roads. It is bent back down to earth but is not distinguishable as traffic and more like a jumbled hum. Some people may of heard of the hum and may confuse it with traffic noise. ...or it could just be aliens

- andrewandy398 | April 16 2015, 11:22PM

Start working from home! Great job for students, stay-at-home moms or anyone needing an extra income... You only need a computer and a reliable internet connection... Make *90 hourly and up to *12000 a month by following link at the bottom and signing up... You can have your first check by the end of this week++++++++++++++++++++++ http://tinyurl.com/kuvlp43

- Sean4u | April 16 2015, 4:15PM

Could be almost anything - bacteria lining the sinus or inner ear doing some kind of chemical / electrical signalling might be plausible. Something like that could explain why only some people experience it, why it's different inside and out (humidity) and why it comes and goes. Such a phenomenon would be difficult to test with microphones.

- wazte_of_mone | April 16 2015, 4:13PM

They tried to get some of those baffled scientists but the reply was: "What? I can't hear you - there is this humming sound ...."

- Bob_C | April 16 2015, 3:22PM

What's the problem in getting one of the "baffled scientists" to visit one of the complainants taking a vlf (very low frequency) sound recorder with him? It will be proved or disproved quite easily.

- Sean4u | April 16 2015, 2:32PM

Could it be the Angelus on a favourable wind or the Azan? Some recordings of the sound would be nice. Is it the kind of sound you can capture with a smartphone? There's a website for the phenomenon at thehumDOTinfo

- ucantbanme19 | April 16 2015, 2:24PM

Herald reporters? They are left wing students. So that explains the general standard at this comic.

- wazte_of_mone | April 16 2015, 2:09PM

"its the collective noise of hot air being released as ukip supporters exhale in their sleep :P" ... nah. It is ALL party supporters! heh heh!!! Government wind whoever gets in!

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The myth of Yamata no Orochi and the Dragon 8 Heads contactoparanormal.us

The Dragons of Japan are similar in appearance to those of China, but have a more pronounced snake, look only three claws on each foot and in general, are menso air.

The most common type is the tatsu, descended from a primitive array of Chinese dragon three fingers. Unlike its ancestor, traditionally has been linked more closely to the sea with rain - because Japan is less vulnerable than China to the devastation associated with flooding.

Much more grotesque was the eight-headed dragon who faced Susa-no-wo, brother of beautiful Japanese sun goddess, Ama-terasu. Trip near the river Hi-no-ka-mi in the province of Izumo, Susa-no met a beautiful young maiden in the company of an older couple, and all three were dismayed. He asked them why they were crying, and learned that the man and woman were the parents of the girl, who was the last of his eight daughters, and each year over the past seven years, one of her daughters had been kidnapped and eaten by a dragon Koshi. Soon back one last time, in search of his beloved daughter, Kush-inada-hime.

The dragon was a terrible beast, so huge that his powerful body stretched for eight mountains and eight valleys and trees and moss protruding from its rugged cache. Had eight twisted tails eight terrible heads, each one with eyes as red as winter cherry Japan, and had a hideously swollen belly.

No mortal could beat this monster, but **Susa-no-wo** was more than mortal. In return for her hand in marriage Kush-inada.hime, promised that reptile destroy enemy.

Perhaps also like: The Myth of Jason and the Argonauts

After transforming his future bride in an innocuous comb, who hid in her hair, Susa-no parent ordered to prepare a lot of powerful sake, and it spilled into eight colossal tanks as soon as you have prepared. Then a high fence, crossed by eight gates was built; behind the doors had a long bench, and placed on top of each bank Cuba sake. Once this was prepared, Susa-no and parents of Kush-inada-hime hid near the place awaiting the arrival of the dragon.

As expected, the delicious aroma of sake was an effective bait, attracting the monster to visit the compound and test the liquid attractive behind the doors. With fierce joy, each of its eight heads quickly drank a Cuba sake, and inevitably, the dragon was too drunk soon - while it sank in drunken stupor floor.

Wasting no time Sasu-no-wo came out of hiding, he raised his powerful two-handed sword skyward, cut the beast comatose in a myriad of fragments.

Thus ended the Dragon Koshi, and so began the settlement of Susa-no-wo with his new wife in Ixumo - and a new sword too. Well inside one of the tails of the dead monster, had discovered to his surprise a wonderful, sharp chuchilla, the kusa-nagi-no-tachi sword dragon or dissipated herbs, which then gave his sister goddess sun.

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X. The Old Man of the Mountain

THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN

This is not a Hawaiian legend. It was written to show the superstitions of the Hawaiians, and in that respect it is accurate and worthy of preservation.

FAR away in New England one of the rugged mountain-sides has for many years been marked with the profile of a grand face. A noble brow, deep-set eyes, close-shut lips, Roman nose, and chin standing in full relief against a clear sky, made a landmark renowned throughout the country. The story is told of a boy who lived in the valley from which the face of the Old Man of the Mountain could be most clearly seen. As the years passed, the boy grew into a man of sterling character. When at last death came and the casket opened to receive the body of an old man, universally revered, the friends saw the likeness to the stone features of the Old Man of the Mountain, and recognized the source of the inspiration which had made one life useful and honored.

Near Honolulu, just beyond one of the great sugar plantations, is a ledge of lava deposited

{p. 75}

centuries ago. The lava was piled up into mountains, now dissolved into slopes of the richest sugar-land in the world. And yet sometimes the hard lava, refusing to disintegrate, thrusts itself out from the hillsides in ledges of grotesque form.

On one of these ancient lava ridges was the outline of an old man's face, to which the Hawaiians have given the name, "The Old Man of the Mountain." The laborers on the sugar-plantations, the passengers on the railroad trains, and the natives who still cling to their scattered homes sometimes have looked with superstitious awe upon the face made without hands. In the days gone by they have called it the "Akua-pohaku" (the stone god). Shall we hear the story of Kamakau, who at some time in the indefinite past dwelt in the shadow of the stone face?

Kamakau means "the afraid." His name came to him as a child. He was a shrinking, sensitive, imaginative little fellow. He was surrounded by influences which turned his imagination into the paths of most unwholesome superstition. But beyond the beliefs of most of his fellows, in his own nature he was keenly appreciative of mysterious things. There was a spirit voice in every wind rustling the tops of the trees. Spirit faces appeared in unnumbered

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caricatures of human outline whenever he lay on the grass and watched the sunlight sift between the leaves. Everything he looked upon or heard assumed some curious form of life. The clouds were most mysterious of all, for they so frequently piled up mass upon mass of grandeur, in such luxurious magnificence and such prodigal display of color, that his power of thought lost itself in his almost daily dream of some time wandering in the shadow valleys of

the precipitous mountains of heaven. Here he saw also strangely symmetrical forms of man and bird and fish. Sometimes cloud forests outlined themselves against the blue sky, and then again at times separated by months and even years, the lights of the volcano-goddess, Pele, glorified her path as she wandered in the spirit land, flashing from cloud-peak to cloud-peak, while the thunder voices of the great gods rolled in mighty volumes of terrific impressiveness. Even in the night Kamakau felt that the innumerable stars were the eyes of the aumakuas (the spirits of the ancestors). It was not strange that such a child should continually think that he saw spirit forms which were invisible to his companions. It is no wonder that he fancied he heard voices of the menehunes (fairies), which his companions could never understand. As he shrunk from places where it seemed to him the spirits dwelt, his

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companions called him "Kamakau," "the afraid." When he grew older he necessarily became keenly alive to all objects of Hawaiian superstition. He never could escape the overwhelming presence of the thousand and more gods which were supposed to inhabit the Hawaiian land and sea. The omens drawn from sacrifices, the voices from the bamboo dwelling-places of the oracles, the chants of the prophets, and powers of praying to death he accepted with unquestioning faith.

Two men were hunting in the forests of the mountains of Oahu. Tired with the long chase after the oo, the bird with the rare yellow feathers from which the feather cloaks of the highest chiefs were made, they laid aside spears and snares and lay down for a rest. "I want the valley of the stone god," said one: "its fertile fields would make just the increase needed for my retainers, and the 'moi,' the king, would give me the land if Kamakau were out of the way."

"Are there any other members of his family, O Inaina, who could resist your claim? "

" No, my friend Kokua. He is the only important chief in the valley."

"Pray him to death," was Kokua's sententious advice.

"Good; I'll do it," said Inaina: "he is one who can easily be prayed to death. 'The Afraid' will soon die."

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"If you will give me the small fish-pond nearest my own coral fish-walls I will be your messenger," said Kokua.

"Ah, that also is good," replied Inaina, after a moment's thought. "I will give you the small pond, and you must give the small thoughts, the hints, to his friends that powerful priests are praying Kamakau to death. All this must be very mysterious. No name can be mentioned, and you and I must be Kamakau's good friends."

It must be remembered that land tenure in ancient Hawaii was almost the same as that of the European feudal system. Occupancy depended upon the will of the high chief. He gave or

took away at his own pleasure. The under-chiefs held the land as if it belonged to them, and were seldom troubled as long as the wishes of the high chief, or king, were carried out. Inaina felt secure in the use of his present property, and believed that he could easily find favor and obtain the land held by the Kamakau family if Kamakau himself could be removed. Without much further conference the two hunters returned to their homes. Inaina at once sought his family priest and stated his wish to have Kamakau prayed to death. They decided that the first step should be taken that night. It was absolutely necessary that something which had been a part of the body of Kamakau should be

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obtained. The priest appointed his confidential hunter of sacrifices to undertake this task. This servant of the temple was usually sent out to find human sacrifices to be slain and offered before the great gods on special occasions. As the darkness came on he crept near the grass house of Kamakau and watched for an opportunity of seizing what he wanted. The two most desired things in the art of praying to death were either a lock of hair from the head of the victim or a part of the spittle, usually well guarded by the trusted retainers who had charge of the spittoon.

It chanced to be "Awa night" for Kamakau, and the chief, having drunk heavily of the drug, had thrown himself on a mat and rolled near the grass walls. With great ingenuity the hunter of sacrifices located the chief and worked a hole through the thatch. Then with his sharp bone knife he sawed off a large lock of Kamakau's hair. When this was done he was about to creep away, but a native came near. Instantly grunting like a hog, he worked his way into the darkness. He saw outlined against the sky in the hands of the native the chief's spittoon. In a moment the hunter of sacrifices saw his opportunity. His past training in lying in wait and capturing men for sacrifice stood him in good stead at this time. The unsuspecting spittoon

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carrier was seized by the throat and quickly strangled. The spittoon in falling from the retainer's hand had not been overturned. Exultant at his success, the hunter of sacrifices sped away in the darkness and placed his trophies in the hands of the priest. The next morning there was a great outcry in Kamakau's village. The dead body was found as soon as dawn crept over the valley, and the hand-polished family calabash was completely lost. When the people went to Kamakau's house with the report of the death of his retainer, they soon saw that the head of their chief had been dishonored. A great feeling of fear took possession of the village. Kamakau's priest hurried to the village temple to utter prayers and incantations against the enemy who had committed such an outrage.

Kokua soon heard the news and came to comfort his neighbor. After the greeting, "Auwe! auwe! " (Alas! alas!) Kokua said: " This is surely praying to death, and the gods have already given you over into the hands of your enemy. You will die. Very soon you will die." Soon Inaina and other chiefs came with their retainers. Among high and low the terrible statement was whispered: "Kamakau is being prayed to death, and no man knows his enemy." Many a strong man has gone to a bed of continued illness, and some have crossed the dark valley into the land

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of death, even in these days of enlightened civilization, simply frightened into the illness or death by the strong statements of friends and acquaintances. Such is the make-up of the minds of men that they are easily affected by the mysterious suggestions of others. It is purely a matter of mind-murder.

It is no wonder that in the days of the long ago Kamakau, moved by the terror of his friends and horrible suggestions of his two enemies, soon felt a great weakness conquering him. His natural disposition, his habit of seeing and hearing gods and spirits in everything around him, made it easy for him to yield to the belief that he was being prayed to death. His strength left him. He could take no food. A strange paralysis seemed to take possession of him. Mind and body were almost benumbed. He was really in the hands of unconscious mesmerists, who were putting him into a magnetic sleep, from which he was never expected to awake. It is a question to be answered only when all earthly problems have been solved. How many of the people prayed to death have really been dissected and prepared for burial while at first under mesmeric influences! The people gathered around Karnakau's thatched house. They thought that he would surely die before the next morning dawned. Inaina and Kokua were lying on the

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grass under the shade of a great candlenut-tree, quietly talking about the speedy success of their undertaking. A little girl was playing near them. It was Kamakau's little Aloha. This was all the name so far given to her. She was "My Aloha," "my dear one," to both father and mother. She heard a word uttered incautiously. Inaina had spoken with the accent of success and his voice was louder than he thought. He said, "We have great strength if we kill Kamakau." The child fled to her father. She found him in the half -unconscious state already described. She shook him. She called to him. She pulled his hands, and covered his face with kisses. Her tears poured over his hot, dry skin. Kamakau was aroused by the shock. He sat up, forgetting all the expectation of death.

Out through the doorway he glanced toward the west. The sinking sun was sending its most glorious beams into the grand clouds, while just beneath, reflecting the glory, lay the Old Man of the Mountain. The stone face was magnificent in its setting. The unruffled brow, the never-closing eyes, the firm lips, stood out in bold relief against the glory which was over and beyond them. Kamakau caught the inspiration. It seemed to his vivid imagination as if ten thousand good spirits were gathered in the heavens to fight for him. He leaped to his

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feet, strength came back into the wearied muscles, a new will-power took possession of him, and he cried: "I will not die! I will not die! The stone god is more powerful than the priests who pray to death!" His will had broken away from its chains, and, unfettered from all fear, Kamakau went forth to greet the wondering people and take up again the position of influence held among the chiefs of Oahu. The lesson is still needed in these beautiful ocean-bound islands that praying to death means either the use of poison or the attempt to terrify the victim by strong mental forces enslaving the will. In either case the aroused will is powerful in both

resistance and watchfulness.

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The Oseberg Ship Burial Astounded Archaeologists with Excellent Preservation and Hoard of Artifacts

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The Oseberg Ship Burial

15 April, 2015 - 03:46 dhwty

The Oseberg Ship Burial Astounded Archaeologists with Excellent Preservation and Hoard of Artifacts

In A.D. 921, the Arab traveler and Islamic theologian Ahmad ibn Fadlan was sent by the Abbasid caliph, al-Muqtadir to the court of the king of the Volga Bulghars as part of a diplomatic party. During his journey of roughly 4000 kilometers, Ibn Fadlan described the various peoples he encountered. About a fifth of Ibn Fadlan's work was devoted to a people known as the Rūsiyyah, who were traders living on the river banks near to the camps of the Volga Bulghars.

Manuscript of the ibn Fadlan chronicle (10th century).

Manuscript of the ibn Fadlan chronicle (10th century). Public Domain

Today the Rūsiyyah are identified by modern scholars as either Vikings or Russians. Perhaps the most spectacular aspect of Rūsiyyah life that Ibn Fadlan recorded was his eyewitness account of a ship burial. Through the vivid recounts of this Arab traveler, we may be able to gain some insight into the Viking ship burials found in Europe, including the Oseberg ship burial.

Ship burial of a Rus chieftain as described by the Arab traveler Ahmad ibn Fadlan who visited Kievan Rus in the 10th century.

Ship burial of a Rus chieftain as described by the Arab traveler Ahmad ibn Fadlan who visited Kievan Rus in the 10th century. Public Domain

The Oseberg burial was discovered in August 1903 when a farmer, Knut Rom, dug into a large mound (approximately 40 meters long by 6.5 meters high) on his property at the Lille Oseberg farm in Slagen, Norway, and came across what seemed to be a ship. Rom decided to seek the help of Professor Gabriel Gustafson in Oslo, who visited the farm two days later. Based on initial investigation, Gustafson was certain that the mound contained a ship burial from the Viking era, (it has been subsequently dated to the early ninth century A.D). As it was autumn, however, Gustafson decided to wait until the following summer before commencing with an excavation.

The excavation of the Oseberg Ship, Norway. 1904 - 1905. Public Domain

The excavation of the Oseberg Ship, Norway. 1904 - 1905.

The excavation of the Oseberg ship took less than three months to complete, and by the end of it the archaeologists had unearthed a 21.40 meter long by 5.10 meter wide ship. The ship was constructed mainly out of oak planks, and its bow and stern were covered in elaborate carvings. There were also 15 pairs of oar holes, meaning that up to 30 men could row the ship.

Due to the particularly damp conditions within the mound, the ship and its contents were well preserved over the ages. Nevertheless, other factors had damaged the ship. For instance, at some point of time, perhaps during the early Middle Ages, the mound was broken into by robbers, as evidenced in the hole in the bow of the ship, who then made their way to the burial chamber. It is likely that any precious metal items left in the burial chamber were taken out by the grave robbers.

Furthermore, at the time of the burial the ship was filled with stones. Combined with the weight of the mound itself and other stones placed around the ship, there was considerable sinking of the ground. Consequently, the ship was broken up into thousands of smaller fragments, and restoration work took 21 years to complete.

The Oseberg ship burial contained two human skeletons, both female. One of the skeletons belonged to a woman who was about 70 or 80 years old when she died. Investigations suggest that the woman probably died of cancer. It is unclear who this woman actually was, and some have speculated that she may have been Queen Åsa, the grandmother of the first Norwegian king.

The second skeleton belonged to a woman in her 50s, though it is not known how she died. In Ibn Fadlan's account, dead chieftains were accompanied in their graves by some of their slaves. It seems that the slaves are not forced, however, as they were first asked by the family of the deceased whether any of them would accompany their master in the afterlife. Perhaps this offer was accepted by some slaves, as the alternate treatment when they died, as Ibn Fadlan reports, was to be left "as food for the dogs and the birds." It is plausible that the two women were mistress and slave, though their relationship is still not entirely known. Perhaps future research will be able to solve this mystery.

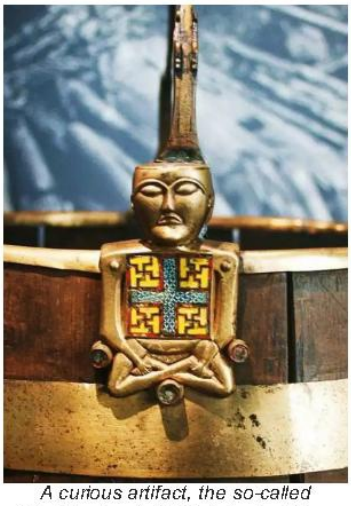
In addition to the human skeletons, the Oseberg ship burial also contained the remains of 13 horses, four dogs and two oxen, probably sacrificed to accompany the deceased into the afterlife. The sacrifice of animals was also observed by Ibn Fadlan, who recorded that a dog, horses, cows and chickens were slaughtered, cut up, and thrown onto the ship. Other grave goods included the enigmatic Oseberg cart, four elaborately decorated sleighs, three beds, a number of wooden chests, as well as agricultural and household tools.

A curious artifact, the so-called "Buddha bucket" (Buddha-bøtte), a brass and cloisonné enamel ornament of a bucket (pail) handle in the shape of a figure sitting with crossed legs. It is thought this item likely came from Ireland, and might have been taken during a raid. Saamiblog/Wikimedia Commons

Due to the preserved nature of the ship, the burial was one of the few sources of surviving textiles of the Viking age.

The Oseberg Ship in the Viking Ship Museum, Norway. Nathan Wind/Flickr

Even though the ship was found in an excellent state of preservation within the mound, the wooden artifacts and the ship itself are under constant threat of deterioration today, with curators striving to



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The Oseberg Ship in the Viking Ship Museum, Norway.

conserve the ancient vessel and its trove.

Although the Oseberg ship burial was discovered more than a century ago, there are many questions still left unanswered regarding the people who were involved with its burial, and the significance of many of its treasures. It remains one of the finest finds of the Viking Age.

Featured image: Reconstruction of Oseberg Ship, Kulturhistorisk museum (Viking Ship Museum), Oslo, Norway. Public Domain

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The part of Iceland no one sees

By Katie Hammel 21 April 2015

bbc.com

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

Where waterfalls outnumber people

The Westfjords are the wildest and most rugged corner of an already wild and rugged country. But those who make the journey find some of Iceland's most beautiful and untouched scenery.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

In a two-room museum in a tiny town in northwest Iceland's Westfjords, a local man detailed the avalanches and long winters that often isolate the residents of the peninsula from their neighbours. The Westfjords are the wildest and most rugged corner of an already wild and rugged country. Fewer than 7,500 people live scattered throughout its 22,000sqkm, making it the least populated section of inhabitable Iceland. It's also the coldest. In winter – which can last from September until June – severe winds, dense fog and heavy snows can close the region's airports for weeks at a time.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

Given the challenges of living in such a remote area on the far edge of the country, I asked the man, who'd introduced himself as Midge, why he would choose the Westfjords as his home.

"Well," he smiled, "have you looked around?"

Fewer than 3% of Iceland's tourists visit the Westfjords, the small fjord-filled peninsula that reaches from Iceland's northwest corner into the North Atlantic Ocean like a gnarled lobster claw. Tempestuous weather and a lack of tourist infrastructure can make travel throughout the

Westfjords difficult, but the reward is some of the most beautiful and untouched scenery in Iceland.

- **Related slideshow: The land of myths and mountains**

My husband Dan and I took the long way around from Reykjavik, driving our rented campervan each day and sleeping inside it each night as we circled the country. The campervan had a bone-jarring suspension, a broken headlight and a tendency to stall unexpectedly on steep inclines, but it survived the 1,500km drive to Ísafjörður.

Home to 2,600 residents, Ísafjörður is the largest settlement in the Westfjords. The town's commercial hub fits on a pier slightly more than 1km long and half as wide. The aluminium-sided houses that line the town's streets hardly seem strong enough to withstand the north's volatile weather; it was only mid-September when we arrived, and the forecast was already threatening snow.

Iceland's Westfjords,Ísafjörður (Credit: Katie Hammel)

Despite concerns about the weather and the campervan's reliability, we risked the short drive to neighbouring Súðavík to visit the Arctic Fox Center. The two-room café, museum and rehab centre cares for orphaned and injured foxes, Iceland's only indigenous land animal. The lone employee on duty was Englishman Stephen Midgley, the aforementioned, Midge.

Midgley knows a lot about the challenges of living in the Westfjords. In addition to his work at the centre, he is one half of the two-person volunteer rescue team that looks after Súðavík's 150 residents. When major disasters strike, additional locals volunteer, arriving by boat from other towns if the road is closed – and road closures are common occurrences. The 15km stretch of coastal road that connects Súðavík to Ísafjörður is dotted with more than 20 known avalanche danger zones. In 1995, a series of avalanches buried Súðavík and nearby Flateyri, killing 34 people. In 2013, avalanches closed the road for nearly a week. Midgley's wife was stranded in Ísafjörður and had to stay with coworkers. "But that's what we do around here," he said. "We take care of each other."

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

The next day, we decided to chance a journey farther from Ísafjörður. We started our road trip in a long, deep tunnel that cut through the mountains to the next fjord. When the tunnel narrowed to a single lane, we'd pull over into small bays to let oncoming cars pass. Midgley had warned us of the difficulty of judging distances in the tunnels and the frustration of a long wait if you pulled over too soon. He'd proposed the idea of painting murals in the waiting bays to give drivers something to look at.

There was no funding for the project yet, but that wasn't a roadblock for Midgley. Though people in the

Westfjords know the value of relying on their neighbours, they also know when to rely on themselves. "Maybe I'll round up some friends and we'll do it ourselves," he'd said.

It was pouring rain on the other side of the tunnel, but within a few kilometres the clouds became a filigree of white with patches of brilliant blue. Though winter's chill had already arrived, the landscape was surprisingly colourful. There were mountains and valleys in every shade of green, from the pale grass growing to sheep-dotted hills to the vibrant spongy moss that clung to the coast. Rust and gold leaves gripped the lava rocks and climbed up the sides of the mountains that cradled the fjords. Bales of yellow hay sat ready to be stored for winter and hues of brilliant blue sparkled in the many waterfalls that poured down from the mountaintops. I started counting them but stopped when I reached 87 in less than an hour.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

More than 80km from Ísafjörður, we paused at the region's largest waterfall, the multi-tiered Dynjandi, one of the area's most popular attractions. For more than an hour, we had it all to ourselves. I'd read the Westfjords were home to more waterfalls than people; now I started to believe it.

We then headed 60km southwest to the nearest town on a road deep with ruts and potholes. The town, Bíldudalur, was little more than a cluster of houses. A single unattended automated gas pump passed for a service station. Dan and I debated the wisdom of taking the unreliable van any farther from civilization, but I was determined to push on to the towering sea cliffs at Látrabjarg – the westernmost point in Iceland.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

The road to the cliffs was so badly marked with puddle-filled ruts and craters that we figured it would take us more than an hour to cover the final 50km to where the route dead-ended at Látrabjarg. Around every curve the weather changed from sun to rain and back again; we spotted several rainbows and passed red and gold sand beaches, rusting shipwrecks and dozens more waterfalls that tumbled down to the dramatic coastline. There wasn't a single car.

When Dan and I had originally chosen the Westfjords as our next destination, we hadn't known how much we'd need to be in the middle of nowhere, how badly we'd want to pretend that nothing outside the sheltering arms of these mountainous peninsulas existed. In May, five months before the trip, my stepfather passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. And then a week before we left for Iceland, Dan's mom passed away with just as little warning.

We'd decided to take the trip anyway. "Grief doesn't have a geographical boundary," Dan had

rationalised. And as such, it was fortuitous that we'd decided to spend our time in a place where it was easy to be alone. Outside of the towns, we had only each other, the endless curving road and the green mountains, towering over us like silent, protective guards.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

It wasn't long, though, until we were reminded that the region's emptiness could also be cause for concern. With just a few kilometres until we reached the cliffs, the van stalled. We were almost 50km from the nearest town, near the literal end of the road, where there was little chance anyone would come to help. To my relief, the engine hummed back to life when I restarted it. A few kilometres later, it stalled once more.

While Dan looked worried, I was uncharacteristically optimistic. Maybe we could call the Artic Fox Center and ask Midge for a rescue, I joked. Thankfully, the van restarted once again and we finally arrived at the site's small parking lot just as another group was leaving.

Strong winds battered the cliffs as we made our way carefully up the spongy incline towards the land's edge and I held tightly to Dan as the wind pushed me sideways. Though I laughed at the warning sign depicting a stick-figure falling head-first off the cliffs, I made sure to keep a safe distance from the drop-off for fear that the wind might actually propel me over.

At 14km long and 440m high, the cliffs at Látrabjarg are the largest bird cliffs in Europe and the second-most western point in Europe (bested only by the Azores). We stopped a short distance from the edge, watching as a lone bird practiced acrobatic swoops and flips in the wind. Below, the sea made a thick foam as it thrashed against the rocks, sending an occasional bubble floating to the sky. Like the few tourists who visit this remote place, the millions of birds that nest in the cliffs in summer had already migrated elsewhere for the coming winter. The silence was magical.

Iceland's Westfjords (Credit: Katie Hammel)

Getting to the Westfjords wasn't easy and venturing so far into a remote and unpopulated region in an unreliable van with winter arriving any day was foolish. In fact, the next day, we'd wake to the first snow of the season covering the tops of the mountains that encircle Ísafjörður. On the 450km drive back to Reykjavik the van would stall once, twice, 12 times before it would finally give up entirely. Dan and I – deciding this time we'd save ourselves instead of wait for a rescue – would abandon it in a hotel parking lot and hail a taxi.

But for now we were grateful that the clunky van had brought us here, where we could be completely

alone. As we stood staring out over the cliffs, the deep blue of the North Atlantic Ocean stretched on until it blended with the pale pastel hue of the sky. To our backs, the undulating green of the clifftops seemed to roll on forever. I felt far away from the tragedies of home, separated from sadness by the endless blue on one side, and shielded from the rest of the known world by the mountains on the other. This tiny corner in this compact peninsula in this little country was bigger, wilder and more beautiful than I could have imagined. The inconveniences, rough roads and challenges of traveling in the Westfjords could only seem small in comparison.

I could understand now why Midgley would choose to live in a place where avalanches are a yearly threat, winter can last nine months and waterfalls outnumber people. All I had to do was take a look around.

Practicalities
Ísafjörður can also be reached by a 45-minute flight from Reykjavik on Airlceland. Happy Campers and KuKu Campers both offer campervans. In Ísafjörður, Gentle Space Guest Apartments offer one- and two-bedroom apartments in the centre of town.

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The Shabaka Stone: Ancient Relic tells of God Ptah and his Creation of the Universe

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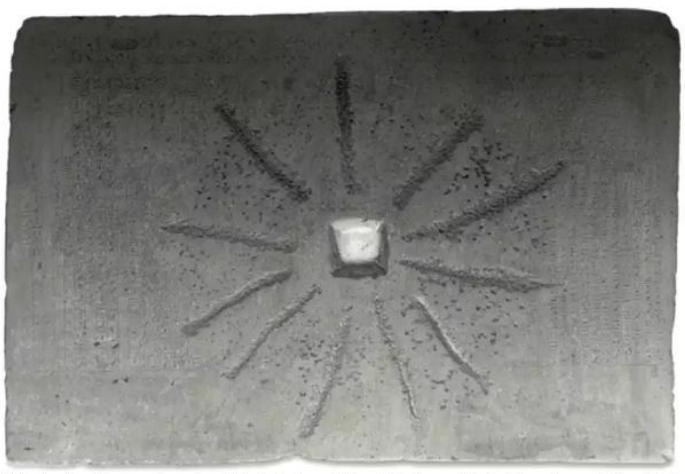


The Shabaka Stone: Ancient Relic tells of God Ptah and his Creation of the Universe

25 April, 2015 - 04:01 dhwty

The Shabaka Stone: Ancient Relic tells of God Ptah and his Creation of the Universe

The 26th Dynasty of Egypt was the last dynasty of the Third Intermediate Period, and was known also as the Nubian Dynasty or the Kushite Empire. The pharaohs of this dynasty hailed from Egypt's southern neighbour, the Nubian Kingdom of Kush. Although the Kushites were able to conquer Egypt through their military might, it was not enough to gain the loyalty of the native population. As foreign rulers, the Kushite pharaohs had to legitimize their rule. One of the steps taken by the new rulers was the revival of Egypt's past glory. This was achieved by reviving and re-introducing art, architecture, history, religion, and ceremonial burial practices into the royal court. There are numerous examples of this Kushite enterprise, one of them being an object of great historical importance - the Shabaka Stone.

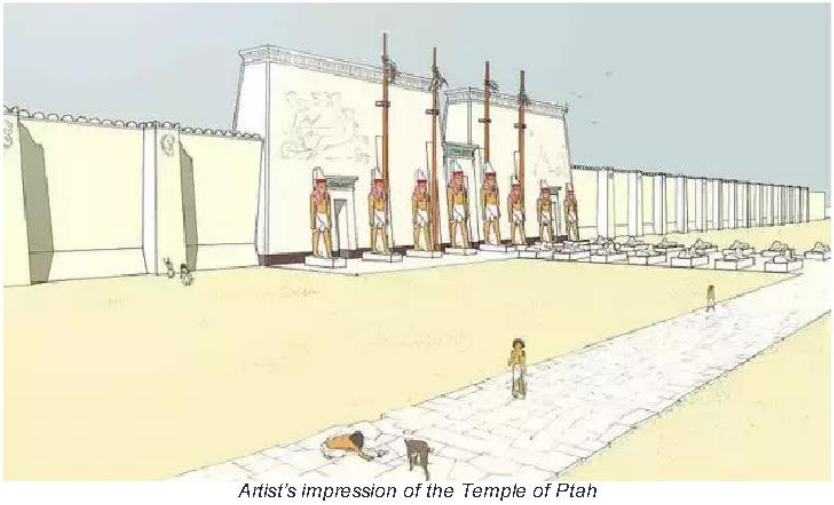
Nubian pharaoh Taharqa, son of Piye, Ancient Egyptian 25th dynasty and king of the Kingdom of Kush

*Nubian pharaoh **Taharqa**, son of Piye, Ancient Egyptian 25th dynasty and king of the Kingdom of Kush (**Image Source**)*

The Shabaka Stone was given to the British Museum (where it still resides today) by George Spencer, the 2nd Earl Spencer, in 1805. The relic consists of a slab of basalt measuring 66cm (26in) by 137cm (53in). As its name suggests, the stone is believed to have been made during the reign of the Kushite pharaoh Shabaka between 716 BC and 702 BC. According to the text inscribed on the stone, Shabaka was inspecting the Temple of Ptah when he came across a "work of the ancestors which was worm-eaten", so much so that "it could not be understood from the beginning to end". Horrified by what he saw, Shabaka ordered the text on the worm-eaten papyrus scroll to be copied onto a more durable medium. Shabaka portrays himself as the saviour of this ancient text, and claims that "it became better than it had been before."

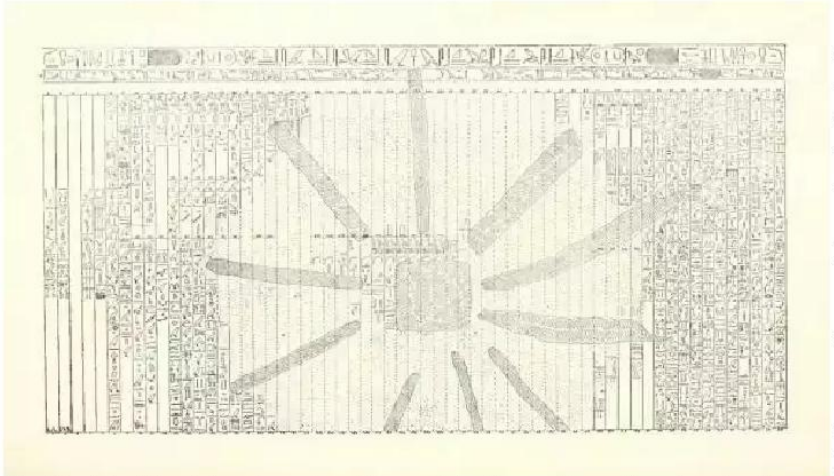
Artist's impression of the Temple of Ptah (Wikimedia Commons)

The text inscribed on the Shabaka Stone contains three stories. One the right side is a story about the creation of the universe, known also as the Memphite Theogony. One the left is the story of the peace made between Seth and Horus, as well as the story of Osiris' body being washed onto the shores of Memphis. As one might expect, the stories revolve subtly around Shabaka. For instance, in this creation



Artist's impression of the Temple of Ptah

myth, the main character is the god Ptah, who was the principal deity of Memphis, the city where Shabaka took up his residence. Of course, in the story of Osiris, the city of Memphis crops up again, which, according to the Shabaka Stone, is the burial place of this god. Additionally, the story of Horus and Seth is often associated with the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. In Shabaka's case, it may be a representation of the unification of the Kingdom of Kush and Egypt, a feat that he achieved.



The "Shabaka Stone", bearing an inscription outlining the creation myth centered on the god Ptah; circa 710 BC, British Museum EA 498. Epigraphic copy by James H. Breasted

The "Shabaka Stone", bearing an inscription outlining the creation myth centered on the god Ptah; circa 710 BC, British Museum EA 498. Epigraphic copy by James H. Breasted (Wikimedia Commons)

According to the Memphite Theogony, the world was brought into being by Ptah through his heart and words:

"There took shape in the heart, there took shape on the tongue the form of Atum. For the very great one is Ptah, who gave [life] to all the gods and their kas through this heart and through this tongue," and *"For every word of the god came about through what the heart devised and the tongue commanded."*

This is similar to the story of the creation found in the book of Genesis, where the earth was created by the God's commands. In the story of Horus and Seth, the quarrel between the two gods is settled peacefully, and the two lands of Egypt are unified. This is quite different from the usual version of the story, where Horus avenges his father Osiris by killing Seth. Perhaps this was Shabaka's vision for his newly unified kingdom, where Kush and Egypt could co-exist peacefully under his sole rule. In the last story, Memphis, instead of the traditional Abydos, is said to be the burial place of Osiris, thus elevating the status of Shabaka's new residence even further.

Tablet depicting Horus and Seth and the meeting of the two lands (Wikimedia Commons)

Unfortunately, much of the text on the Shabaka Stone is lost, and only these three stories have been preserved. This is due to the fact that at some point of its history, the Shabaka Stone was re-used as a millstone, resulting in much of its text in the center being destroyed during this time. Although the Shabaka Stone was originally placed in the Temple of Ptah in Memphis, little is known of its subsequent fate until its acquisition by the British Museum. Nevertheless, it is still an interesting artifact that sheds some light on the way the pharaohs of the 26th Dynasty, Shabaka in particular, viewed themselves and their position in Egyptian society.

Tablet depicting Horus and Seth and the meeting of the two lands

Featured image: The Shabaka Stone in the British Museum. (Trustees of the British Museum).

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THE SHARK-MAN OF WAIPIO VALLEY

THIS is a story of Waipio Valley, the most beautiful of all the valleys of the Hawaiian Islands, and one of the most secluded. It is now, as it has always been, very difficult of access. The walls are a sheer descent of over a thousand feet. In ancient times a narrow path slanted along the face of the bluffs wherever foothold could be found. In these later days the path has been enlarged, and horse and rider can descend into the valley's depths. In the upper end of the valley is a long silver ribbon water falling fifteen hundred feet from the brow of a precipice over which a mountain torrent swiftly hurls itself to the fertile valley below. Other falls show the convergence of several mountain streams to the ocean outlet offered by the broad plains of Waipio.

Here in the long ago high chiefs dwelt and sacred temples were built. From Waipio Valley Moikeha and Laa-Mai-Kahiki sailed away on their famous voyages to distant foreign lands. In this valley dwelt the priest who in the times of Maui was said to have the winds of heaven concealed in his calabash. Raising the cover a little,

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he sent gentle breezes in the direction of the opening. Severe storms and hurricanes were granted by swiftly opening the cover widely and letting a chaotic mass of fierce winds escape. The stories of magical powers of bird and fish as well as of the strange deeds of powerful men are almost innumerable. Not the least of the history-myths of Waipio Valley is the story of Nanaue, the shark-man, who was one of the cannibals of the ancient time.

Ka-moho-alii was the king of all the sharks which frequent Hawaiian waters. When he chose to appear as a man he was always a chief of dignified, majestic appearance. One day, while swimming back and forth just beneath the surface of the waters at the mouth of the valley, he saw an exceedingly beautiful woman coming to bathe in the white surf.

That night Ka-moho-alii came to the beach black with lava sand, crawled out of the water, and put on the form of a man. As a mighty chief he walked through the valley and mingled with the people. For days he entered into their sports and pastimes and partook of their bounty, always looking for the beautiful woman whom he had seen bathing in the surf. When he found her he came to her and won her to be his wife.

Kalei was the name of the woman who married the strange chief. When the time came for a

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child to be born to them, Ka-moho-alii charged Kalei to keep careful watch of it and guard its body continually from being seen of men, and never allow the child to eat the flesh of any animal. Then he disappeared, never permitting Kalei to have the least suspicion that he was the king of the sharks.

When the child was born, Kalei gave to him the name "Nanaue." She was exceedingly surprised to find an opening in his back. As the child grew to manhood the opening developed into a large shark-mouth in rows of fierce sharp teeth.

From infancy to manhood Kalei protected Nanaue by keeping his back covered with a fine kapa cloak. She was full of fear as she saw Nanaue plunge into the water and become a shark. The mouth on his back opened for any kind of prey. But she kept the terrible birthmark of her son a secret hidden in the depths of her own heart.

For years she prepared for him the common articles of food, always shielding him from the temptation to eat meat. But when he became a man his grandfather took him to the men's eating-house, where his mother could no longer protect him. Meats of all varieties were given to him in great abundance, yet he always wanted more. His appetite was insatiable.

While under his mother's care he had been

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taken to the pool of water into which the great Waipio Falls poured its cascade of water. There he bathed, and, changing himself into a shark, caught the small fish which were playing around him. His mother was always watching him to give an alarm if any of the people came near to the bathing-place.

As he became a man he avoided his companion, in all bathing and fishing. He went away by himself. When the people were out in the deep sea bathing or fishing, suddenly a fierce shark would appear in their midst, biting and tearing their limbs and dragging them down in the deep water. Many of the people disappeared secretly, and great terror filled the homes of Waipio.

Nanaue's mother alone was certain that hie was the cause of the trouble. He was becoming very bold in his depredations. Sometimes he would ask when his friends were going out in the sea; then he would go to a place at some distance, leap into the sea, and swiftly dash to intercept the return of his friends to the shore. Perhaps he would allay suspicion by appearing as a man and challenge to a swimming-race. Diving suddenly, he would in an instant become a shark and destroy his fellow-swimmer.

The people felt that he had some peculiar power, and feared him. One day, when their high chief had called all the men of the valley to prepare

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the taro patches for their future supply of food, a fellow-workman standing by the side of Nanaue tore his kapa cape from his shoulders. The men behind cried out, "See the great shark-mouth!" All the people came running together, shouting, "A shark-man!" "A shark-man!"

Nanaue became very angry and snapped his shark-teeth together. Then with bitter rage he attacked those standing near him. He seized one by the arm and bit it in two. He tore the flesh of another in ragged gashes. Biting and snapping from side to side he ran toward the

sea.

The crowd of natives surrounded him and blocked his way. He was thrown down and tied. The mystery had now passed from the valley. The people knew the cause of the troubles through which they had been passing, and all crowded around to see this wonderful thing, part man and part shark.

The high chief ordered their largest oven to be prepared, that Nanaue might be placed therein and burned alive. The deep pit was quickly cleaned out by many willing hands, and, with much noise and rejoicing, fire was placed within and the stones for heating were put in above the fire. "We are ready for the shark-man," was the cry.

During the confusion Nanaue quietly made his plans to escape. Suddenly changing himself to

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a shark, the cords which bound him fell off and he rolled into one of the rivers which flowed from the falls in the upper part of the valley.

None of the people dared to spring into the water for a hand-to-hand fight with the monster. They ran along the bank, throwing stones at Nanaue and bruising him. They called for spears that they might kill him, but he made a swift rush to the sea and swam away, never again to return to Waipio Valley.

Apparently Nanaue could not live long in the ocean. The story says that he swam over to the island of Maui and landed near the village Hana. There he dwelt for some time, and married a chiefess. Meanwhile he secretly killed and ate some of the people. At last his appetite for human flesh made him so bold that he caught a beautiful young girl and carried her out into the deep waters. There he changed himself into a shark and ate her body in the sight of the people.

The Hawaiians became very angry. They launched their canoes, and, throwing in all kinds of weapons, pushed out to kill their enemy. But he swam swiftly away, passing around the island until at last he landed on Molokai.

Again he joined himself to the people, and again one by one those who went bathing and fishing disappeared. The priests (kahunas) of the people at last heard from their fellow-priests of the island

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of Maui that there was a dangerous shark-man roaming through the islands. They sent warning to the people, urging all trusty fishermen to keep strict watch. At last they saw Nanaue change himself into a great fish. The fishermen waged a fierce battle against him. They entangled him in their nets, they pierced him with spears and struck him with clubs until the waters were red with his blood. They called on the gods of the sea to aid them. They uttered prayers and incantations. Soon Nanaue lost strength and could not throw off the ropes which were tied around him, nor could he break the nets in which he was entangled.

The fishermen drew him to the shore, and the people dragged the great shark body up the hill Puu-mano. Then they cut the body into small pieces and burned them in a great oven.

Thus died Nanaue, whose cannibal life was best explained by giving to him in mythology the awful appetite of an insatiable man-eating shark.

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The Strange and Interesting Stories of the World's 10 Micronations.

whenonearth.net

Photo Credit: Awreness Photo Credit: annie hashim Photo Credit: Wikipedia Photo Credit: Portsmouth and District Angling Society Photo Credit: Meet Hercegovina Photo Credit: Forvik Photo Credit: Micronations Wiki Photo Credit: Monti Simbruini Photo Credit: Australian Government Photo Credit: Travel Report

A micronation is not a country. It's an entity that claims to be an independent nation or state but is not recognized by world governments or major international organizations. However, being unrecognized doesn't stop them from doing what they plan for their community. Some micronations have already established their own currency, flags, passports, and stamps. Some have stayed only online without any physical activity and some continue to fight for their vision. Some have become popular among tourists and some stay to be funny and weird stories that makes the world a more quirky place to live in.

Here are 10 of the self-declared micronations around the world:

1. Kingdom of North Sudan (2014)

Photo Credit: Awreness

The Kingdom of North Sudan was established by Virginia resident Jeremiah Heaton in the land of Bir Tawil, a land unclaimed by bordering countries, Egypt and Sudan. The reason for claiming this land is undeniably sweet (or maybe eye-rolling?). Heaton – who we may call King Heaton – searched for an unclaimed land to grant his daughter's wish to be a real princess. On July 16, his daughter's birthday, he planted a homemade blue flag in Bir Tawil's land (top photo) and declared it as the "Kingdom of North Sudan". But of course, it's not yet a happily ever after moment and there are still legal processes to take care of.

2. Naminara Republic (2006)

Photo Credit: annie hashim

Naminara Republic was the birth name the island of Namiseom used when it declared its cultural independence. Namiseom is a tiny half-moon shaped island located in Chunchon, Gangwon Province, 60 km from Seoul. After being "Naminara", it began to have its own national flag, anthem, currency, passports, phone cards, stamps, orthography, and certification of citizenship.

3. Acting Witan of Mercia (2003)

Photo Credit: Wikipedia

The original Kingdom of Mercia was centered on the valley of the River Trent in the region now known as the English Midlands. It dominated most of England for 300 years until it was annihilated by the Norman invaders and absorbed into the Danelaw together with London and northern England. Mercia was already history but for the Acting Witan of Mercia, it isn't and should be recreated. The group wants the area within the former Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia to be independent and offer its people a whole new holistic society.

4. Grand Duchy of the Lagoan Isles (2005)

Photo Credit: Portsmouth and District Angling Society

The Grand Duchy of the Lagoan Isles is a micronation based in Britain established by school teacher Louis Robert Harold Stephens as a class project. The claimed territory includes the Baffins Pond in Portsmouth and its three tiny islands. The Grand Duchy 's operations are just limited to the Internet and no physical presence is seen around the pond area.

5. Hajdučka Republika Mijata Tomića (2002)

Hajdučka Republika Mijata Tomića is a micronation established between the mountains of Vran and Čvrsnica, in the middle of the Nature Park Blidinje, western Herzegovina, Bosnia

Photo Credit: Meet Hercegovina

and Herzegovina. The founder, Vinko Vukoja Lastvić, was a motel owner who just wanted to solve a power supply connection problem and whenever he asked the surrounding municipalities to solve the problem, he was always rejected since his area was an unclaimed land. The Hajdučka Republika was created and Vukoja's motel became one of the most popular places in western Herzegovina.

6. Forvik (2008)

Photo Credit: Forvik

Covering the island of Forewick Holm as its sole territory, Forvik is a British Crown Dependency as declared by the island's disputed owner, sole occasional occupant, and Cunningsburgh resident, Stuart Hill. Being declared as a British Crown Dependency gives the island the right to be independently administered but that doesn't mean they're a sovereign state because UK still holds responsible for these islands. Hill accepts Forvik citizenship applications for outsiders and land-ownership applications that only apply to Shetland Island residents only.

7. Grand Duchy of Flandrensis (2008)

Flandrensis is a Belgian Antarctic micronation located in western Antarctica but its government is located in the Flanders region, Belgium. Flandrensis was a virtual micronation but later claimed the five offshore islands located in the southwestern part of Antarctica as its territories. These islands are Carney Island, Cherry Island, Maher Island, Pranke Island, and Siple Island.

8. Filettino (2011)

Filettino was originally a town in central Italy before it declared independence from the country. The idea came from the town mayor, Luca Sellari, when the town of 550 residents was planned to merge with the neighboring town of Trevi. Sellari created the town's own

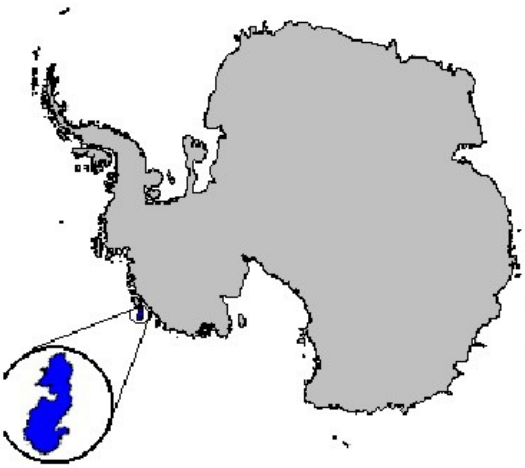

Photo Credit: Micronations Wiki

Photo Credit: Monti Simbruini

currency, Fiorito, with his image printed on the back of the banknotes. The town became popular among tourists and Fioritos are bought as souvenirs.

9. Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands(2004)

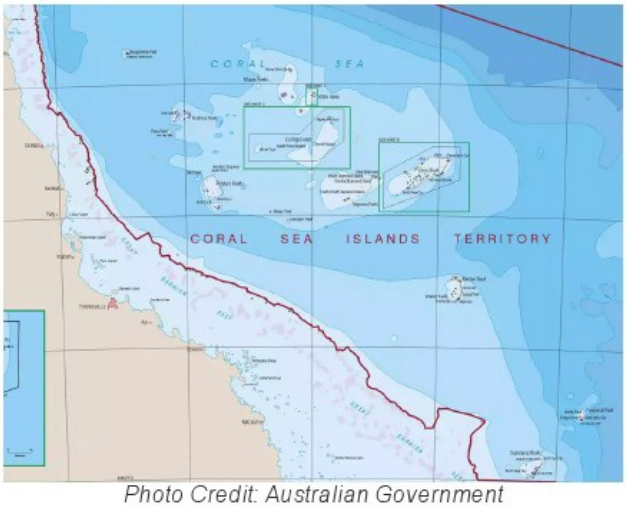

Photo Credit: Australian Government

Located northeast of Australia, the Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands (that was long) was created in response to the Australian government's refusal to recognize same sex marriages. On June 14, 2004, the gay and lesbian activists sailed to the territory's largest island Cato and raised their rainbow flag to declare independence from Australia. Gay rights activist Dale Parker Anderson was elected emperor and sovereign of the Gay Kingdom

10. Copeman Empire (2003)

Photo Credit: Travel Report

Henry Michael King Nicholas was unemployed, pressured by his family to make something of himself, and challenged by his friends with a weird dare – build his own empire. By then he declared himself as HM King Nicholas I and he built the Copeman empire in a two-berth Elddis Mistral GTX Caravan. His small caravan is decorated with velvet curtains, red carpet, silk trim, and a throne room (a chemical toilet). The whole story about Henry and his Copeman Empire can be read through his published book,"King Nicholas and the

Copeman Empire".

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THE STRANGE BANANA SKIN

KUKALI, according to the folk-lore of Hawaii, was born at Kalapana, the most southerly point of the largest island of the Hawaiian group. Kukali lived hundreds of years ago in the days of the migrations of Polynesians from one group of islands to another throughout the length and breadth of the great Pacific Ocean. He visited strange lands, now known under the general name, Kahiki, or Tahiti. Here he killed the great bird Halulu, found the deep bottomless pit in which was a pool of the fabled water of life, married the sister of Halulu, and returned to his old home. All this he accomplished through the wonderful power of a banana skin.

Kukali's father was a priest, or kahuna, of great wisdom and ability, who taught his children how to exercise strange and magical powers. To Kukali he gave a banana with the impressive charge to preserve the skin whenever he ate the fruit, and be careful that it was always under his control. He taught Kukali the wisdom of the makers of canoes and also how to select the fine-grained lava for stone knives and hatchets,

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and fashion the blade to the best shape. He instructed the young man in the prayers and incantations of greatest efficacy and showed him charms which would be more powerful than any charms his enemies might use in attempting to destroy him, and taught him those omens which were too powerful to be overcome. Thus Kukali became a wizard, having great confidence in his ability to meet the craft of the wise men of distant islands.

Kukali went inland through the forests and up the mountains, carrying no food save the banana which his father had given him. Hunger came, and he carefully stripped back the skin and ate the banana, folding the skin once more together. In a little while the skin was filled with fruit. Again and again he ate, and as his hunger was satisfied the fruit always again filled the skin, which he was careful never to throw away or lose.

The fever of sea-roving was in the blood of the Hawaiian people in those days, and Kukali's heart burned within him with the desire to visit the far-away lands about which other men told marvelous tales and from which came strangers like to the Hawaiians in many ways.

After a while he went to the forests and selected trees approved by the omens, and with many prayers fashioned a great canoe in which to embark upon his journey. The story is not told

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of the days passed on the great stretches of water as he sailed on and on, guided by the sun in the day and the stars in the night, until he came to the strange lands about which he had dreamed for years.

His canoe was drawn up on the shore and he lay down for rest. Before falling asleep he

secreted his magic banana in his malo, or loincloth, and then gave himself to deep slumber. His rest was troubled with strange dreams, but his weariness was great and his eves heavy, and he could not arouse himself to meet the dangers which were swiftly surrounding him.

A great bird which lived on human flesh was the god of the land to which he had come. The name of the bird was Halulu. Each feather of its wings was provided with talons and seemed to be endowed with human powers. Nothing like this bird was ever known or seen in the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. But here in the mysterious foreign land it had its deep valley, walled in like the valley of the Arabian Nights, over which the great bird hovered looking into the depths for food. A strong wind always attended the coming of Halulu when he sought the valley for his victims.

Kukali was lifted on the wings of the bird-god and carried to this hole and quietly laid on the ground to finish his hour of deep sleep.

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When Kukali awoke he found himself in the shut-in valley with many companions who had been captured by the great bird and placed in this prison hole. They had been without food and were very weak. Now and then one of the number would lie down to die. Halulu, the bird-god, would perch on a tree which grew on the edge of the precipice and let down its wing to sweep across the floor of the valley and pick up the victims lying on the ground. Those who were strong could escape the feathers as they brushed over the bottom and hide in the crevices in the walls, but day by day the weakest of the prisoners were lifted out and prepared for Halulu's feast.

Kukali pitied the helpless state of his fellow-prisoners and prepared his best incantations and prayers to help him overcome the great bird. He took his wonderful banana and fed all the people until they were very strong. He taught them how to seek stones best fitted for the manufacture of knives and hatchets. Then for days they worked until they were all well armed with sharp stone weapons.

While Kukali and his fellow-prisoners were making preparation for the final struggle, the bird-god had often come to his perch and put his wing down into the valley, brushing the feathers back and forth to catch his prey. {p. 70} Frequently the search was fruitless. At last he became very impatient, and sent his strongest feathers along the precipitous walls, seeking for victims.

Kukali and his companions then ran out from their hiding-places and fought the strong feathers, cutting them off and chopping them into small pieces.

Halulu cried out with pain and anger, and sent feather after feather into the prison. Soon one wing was entirely destroyed. Then the other wing was broken to pieces and the bird-god in his insane wrath put down a strong leg armed with great talons. Kukali uttered mighty invocations and prepared sacred charms for the protection of his friends.

After a fierce battle they cut off the leg and destroyed the talons. Then came the struggle with

the remaining leg and claws, but Kukali's friends had become very bold. They fearlessly gathered around this enemy, hacking and pulling until the bird-god, screaming with pain, fell into the pit among the prisoners, who quickly cut the body into fragments.

The prisoners made steps in the walls, and by the aid of vines climbed out of their prison. When they had fully escaped, they gathered great piles of branches and trunks of trees and threw them into the prison until the body of the bird-god

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was covered. Fire was thrown down and Halulu was burned to ashes. Thus Kukali taught by his charms that Halulu could be completely destroyed.

But two of the breast feathers of the burning Halulu flew away to his sister, who lived in a great hole which had no bottom. The name of this sister was Namakaeha. She belonged to the family of Pele, the goddess of volcanic fires, who had journeyed to Hawaii and taken up her home in the crater of the volcano Kilauea.

Namakaeha smelled smoke on the feathers which came to her, and knew that her brother was dead. She also knew that he could have been conquered, only by one possessing great magical powers. So she called to his people: "Who is the great kupua [wizard] who has killed my brother? Oh, my people, keep careful watch."

Kukali was exploring all parts of the strange land in which he had already found marvelous adventures. By and by he came to the great pit in which Namakaeha lived. He could not see the bottom, so he told his companions he was going down to see what mysteries were concealed in this hole without a bottom. They made a rope of the hau[1] tree bark. Fastening one end around his body he ordered his friends to let him down. Uttering prayers and incantations he went down

[1. Paritium tiliaceus.]

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and down until, owing to counter incantations of Namakaeha's priests, who had been watching, the rope broke and he fell.

Down he went swiftly, but, remembering the prayer which a falling man must use to keep him from injury, he cried, "O Ku! guard my life!"

In the ancient Hawaiian mythology there was frequent mention of "the water of life." Sometimes the sick bathed in it and were healed. Sometimes it was sprinkled upon the unconscious, bringing them back to life. Kukali's incantation was of great power, for it threw him into a pool of the water of life and he was saved.

One of the kahunas (priests) caring for Namakaeha was a very great wizard. He saw the wonderful preservation of Kukali and became his friend. He warned Kukali against eating anything that was ripe, because it would be poison, and even the most powerful charms could

not save him.

Kukali thanked him and went out among the people. He had carefully preserved his wonderful banana skin, and was able to eat apparently ripe fruit and yet be perfectly safe.

The kahunas of Namakaeha tried to overcome him and destroy him, but he conquered them, killed those who were bad, and entered into friendship with those who were good.

At last he came to the place where the great

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chiefess dwelt. Here he was tested in many ways. He accepted the fruits offered him, but always ate the food in his magic banana. Thus he preserved his strength and conquered even the chiefess and married her. After living with her for a time he began to long for his old home in Hawaii. Then he persuaded her to do as her relative Pele had already done, and the family, taking their large canoe, sailed away to Hawaii, their future home.

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Next: X. The Old Man of the Mountain

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The theme park where all the staff have dwarfism

bbc.com

By Andy Jones Kunming, China

- 11 April 2015

People standing on the steps in front of a line of houses

The Kingdom of the Little People is one of China's more unusual tourist attractions. Established in 2009, it was created as a secure place of employment for people with dwarfism who are often shunned in China's superstitious culture - but some have criticised it for isolating staff from society.

As I arrive at the Kingdom of the Little People, a welcome party emerges through the mountain mist looking anything but unhappy and exploited.

"Guards" are standing there in medieval costumes with plastic shields. Dancers, heavily made-up, smile and wave politely at the 50 or so guests who have arrived for the morning show. Through an interpreter I am told there is a fire service, a police force, a parliament and a democratically elected ruler. Those who can't dance or perform are given jobs in security, handicrafts, catering or cleaning.

It all seems rather better organised than the nearby city of Kunming, a city that's keen on ambition and natural beauty, but with an infrastructure that doesn't seem to have matched its recent growth. Plush hotels have high definition flat-screen TVs, but no heating. Motorways lie half-finished. The public toilets are OK with liquids but won't, you're warned, accept solids.

Staff at Kingdom of the Little People holding plastic swords and wearing costumes

The village of those of restricted growth has plastic mushroom houses like something from a 90s Nintendo game. They sit on a small hillock from where the performers file out for their daily parade. The people don't actually live in those fungal dwellings but in heated dormitories some distance away.

In the parade, the performers flank the emperor. He's an elderly man who waves at his subjects from beneath a black cloak.

The community only allows those under a certain height to live here. And bizarrely, the stray dogs are tiny - packs of Chihuahuas and

Papillons. An enthusiastic presenter details the day's events on a microphone and the singers make up for a lack of vocal skill with boundless enthusiasm.

The visitors here, mainly Chinese tourists, take photos and cheer as the performers take part in folk dances, gymnastic displays and muscleman shows. A chap with large biceps makes a grand show of lifting weights bigger than he is.

The audience laughs at a drag queen, who throws a silicone breast implant into the crowd. They respond by showering him with roses. The tourists have their picture taken with the entertainers - the shortest the most popular - before they are invited to have tea in the small houses.

Houses at Kingdom of the Little People

The bosses here are keen for me to meet as many residents as possible. They insist there are no secrets. The people living here certainly appear happy and relaxed. I learn that in most places in China they meet no-one else of their height. Here they are accepted and are given language classes, fitted clothes and an agreeable wage.

I meet one of the presenters Xiao Xiao - or Little Little - who has a boyfriend here and is happy. She says only a few of the 200 residents have left and that was largely because they were homesick.

Previously, she tells me, she used to sing on top of bars for small change and drunks would grab at her or throw drinks. Now she sings on a proper stage - people applaud politely and throw flowers.

Another woman tells me she left a toxic job in a smelting factory to come here. Others begged or thieved. Few jobs, it seems, are open to people with dwarfism in China.

Performers at Kingdom of the Little People

The taunts or aggression that many of these people suffered elsewhere just don't happen here.

I make a number of visits to the Kingdom in the three days I'm in this part of China, and while the visitors cheer and take photos they all seem particularly polite.

And gradually it becomes clear that, for those living here, sex and love are big attractions. Previously, many had struggled to find relationships but here there have been

several marriages and inevitably children, all happily celebrated. There are no locks on the doors - I'm told there's no crime. Any disputes, marital or otherwise, are solved by the elected council.

The stage and publicly facing aspect of their lives are gaudy, almost tacky. This is like a Santa's grotto of naff attractions. But in the private quarters beyond, where they spend most of their lives, there's privacy and respect.

Before I go, I have another chat with Xiao Xiao who says wherever she goes, here or in the world outside, people are fascinated by her height. But I can't help wondering whether being gawped at for four hours a day is a fair exchange for a life of increased security and a little happiness.

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The Victorian craze that sparked a mini-sexual revolution

bbc.com

By Justin Parkinson

- 6 April 2015

A Victorian Valentine's card refers to Cupid wearing 'the nimble wheel' going 'a-RINKING'

Rollerskating is a long-established hobby, allowing for exercise and fresh air. But was its original popularity partly down to a desire for more romantic freedom?

It is a truth universally acknowledged that taking one's potential mother-in-law on a date is a bad idea.

Pity the upper- and middle-class Victorians, whose every romantic move, at a dance or a soiree, was monitored by their elders.

There was little means of escaping this stultifying atmosphere until, in 1863, the American inventor James Leonard Plimpton patented a four-wheeled roller skate that was capable of turning. Skates had already been around for about 100 years, but were cumbersome because steering meant having to stop and pick up one's feet. Plimpton's innovation meant skaters could move easily in a circle.

Aware of the commercial possibilities, Plimpton opened the first rollerskating rinks in New York and Rhode Island. Promoted as family-friendly health and fitness venues, they grew in popularity.

By the mid-1870s, a craze for indoor rollerskating had come to Britain, with 50 rinks in place in London at one point. The press dubbed the phenomenon "rinkomania", but the healthy exercise that Plimpton had boasted of was not all that attracted the young "rinkers".

Plimpton's 1863 four-wheeled roller skate

"The skating rink is the neutral ground on which the sexes may meet," reported Australia's Port Macquarie News of goings-on in London and elsewhere, "without all the pomp and circumstances of society. The rink knows no Mother Grundy, with her eagle eye and sharp tongue, for Mother Grundy dare not trust herself on skates, and so the rinker is happier than the horseman of whom Horace sang."

Holding hands and whispering sweet nothings became easier without Mother Grundy - a contemporary term for a stern matriarch - and her ilk tagging along. Prolonged eye contact with one's intended replaced stolen glances.

A group of enthusiasts in 1876 gathers around a fellow skater who has fallen over

In 1876, it was satirically reported in Punch magazine that London's Royal Albert Hall, named after Queen Victoria's late husband and opened only in 1871 as a venue for the high arts, could itself become a rink. A cartoon in the Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News in the March of that year joked: "If you would be my Valentine; On Plimpton rollers learn to shine." The composer Edward Hoffman created a piece called the Rinkomania Grand Promenade March.

The Lady's Letter from London column in the California Mail reported that rinkomania was "spreading with extraordinary rapidity, until every available space is threatened with being converted into an asphalted plain, on which young men and maidens... may spin and twirl about on wheels, attired in rink hats and the latest rink costumes".

A Victorian Valentine's card refers to Cupid wearing 'the nimble wheel' going 'a-RINKING'

Indeed, the clothing worn departed from the formality of the time. A craze for ice skating in the US had seen greater use of closer-fitting dresses for convenience. This transferred to the wheeled version.

It was hardly the sort of sexual revolution Britain and much of the rest of the Western world was to experience almost a century later, with the advent of "free love", mini-skirts and the pill, but at least it offered a little more freedom.

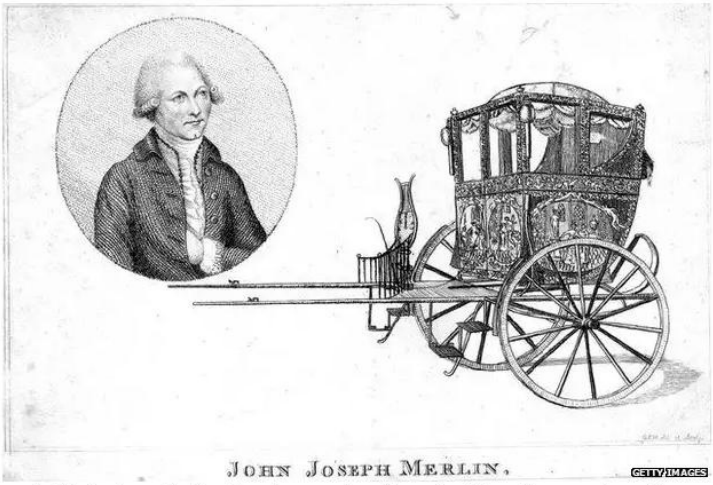
Plimpton's 1863 four-wheeled roller skate A group of enthusiasts in 1876 gathers around a fellow skater who has fallen over Rollerskating in 1882, 1912 and 1926...

"If a youth possesseth good parts do they not shine to greater advantage in the whirring arena of wheels; if a maiden be graceful, doth not her grace become still more charmingly enhanced by the very poetry of motion?" asked the Port Macquarie News.

"Above all, does not roller skating recommend itself beyond all other pastimes, insomuch as even the first crude effort to strike a balance, not to say an attitude, is aided in the case of the fair sex by the gentle and respectful, yet firm and sufficient, support of some skilled cavalier, whose well-timed assistance and experienced counsels, smooth the rugged - no, that won't do - render less glacial the slippery path."

A path rendered less glacial was as much as the skilled cavaliers of mid to late-Victorian Britain could hope for. But rollerskating became less popular by the 1890s, with many rinks, built in a hurry at the height of the craze, going out of business.

A Victorian Valentine's card refers to Cupid wearing 'the nimble wheel' going 'a-RINKING' Plimpton's 1863 four-wheeled roller skate A group of enthusiasts in 1876 gathers around a fellow skater who has fallen over Rollerskating in 1882, 1912 and 1926...



A Victorian Valentine's card refers to Cupid wearing 'the nimble wheel' going 'a-RINKING' Plimpton's 1863 four-wheeled roller skate A group of enthusiasts in 1876 gathers around a fellow skater who has fallen over Rollerskating in 1882, 1912 and 1926...

John Joseph Merlin

- John Joseph Merlin, a Belgian inventor, was the first recorded person to invent a roller skate, in London in about 1760
- Merlin wore a pair of his new skates to a masquerade party at Carlisle-House in London. He was not a good skater and crashed into a large mirror, severely injuring himself
- He had reportedly been trying to play the violin at the same time

A Victorian Valentine's card refers to Cupid wearing 'the nimble wheel' going 'a-RINKING' Plimpton's 1863 four-wheeled roller skate A group of enthusiasts in 1876 gathers around a fellow skater who has fallen over Rollerskating in 1882, 1912 and 1926...

In his 1897 book Social Transformations of the Victorian Age, Thomas Hay Sweet Escott looked back fondly at the 1870s, when he had been a young man. He recalled how

the middle classes had "slipped about, and called it skating".

Most acquaintances between men and women had been "probably blameless. They often ended in blissful and desirable marriage. But not without a shock to her sense of maternal propriety did the English matron of old-fashioned ideas see, or hear of, her daughter being twirled round in the arms of some youth just introduced, or perhaps without even the preliminary of that easy form."

It's something young people today would take for granted. At the time it was truly revolutionary.

Rollerskating in 1882, 1912 and 1926...

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The Vocabularist: Where did word 'manifesto' come from?

bbc.com

- 16 April 2015

Sir Robert Peel created the Tamworth manifesto

The week's election-speak has been dominated by the word "manifesto" - whose final "o" echoes the romance and grandeur of Italy, where it was borrowed from, says Trevor Timpson.

Manifestus - meaning clear, public or notorious - is common in classical Latin. The gods whose images Virgil's hero Aeneas saved from burning Troy later appear to him "multo manifesti lumine" - manifest in a great light.

It may once have meant "struck by the hand" - and therefore "obvious" - from manus "hand" - and an old word related to our "defend" and "offend" but not to "feast" or "festive".

By the 17th Century it was being used in Italian for a statement of views or policy by a person in the public eye. Bishop Marco Antonio De Dominis - a sort of "religion tourist" who became an Anglican and lived off the English state until he changed his mind - wrote a declaration in 1616 which he called "mio manifesto".

The word was soon embraced by British writers, though other languages found the Italian form less alluring - Marx's Communist Manifesto of 1848, for instance, was originally "Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei" in German.

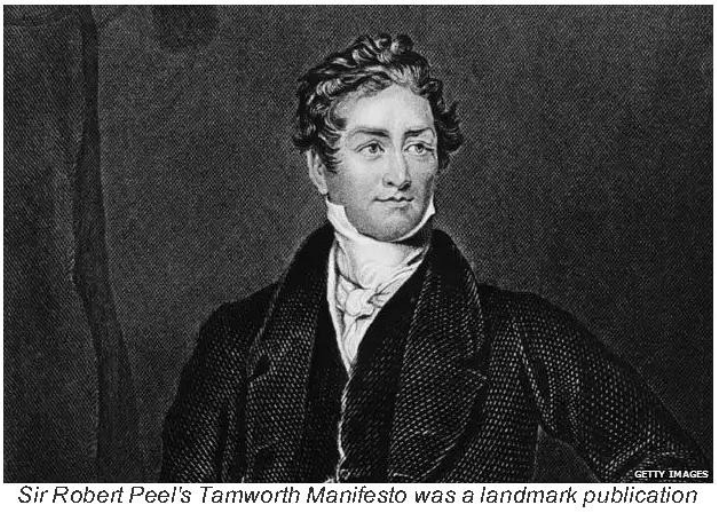
In the 19th Century, British party leaders' letters to their constituents came to be widely quoted as statements of their policies. Conservative Sir Robert Peel's letter to the electors of Tamworth distanced him from the old Toryism of his predecessor Wellington, and pledged "the firm maintenance of established rights, the correction of proved abuses and the redress of real grievances". It became celebrated as the "Tamworth Manifesto".

The Bible is divided into chapter and verse, a dictionary is a list of words, and a subdivision of a manifesto is a **pledge**.

Journalists love to say "pledge" - it sounds punchier than "promise" and allows the writing of headlines line "Polish pledge left on the table" which give a shine to any story.

The word's most famous poetic use is in the sense of making a vow to someone by drinking to them. "Drink to me only with thine eyes, and I will pledge with mine" wrote Ben Jonson in 1616.

But its history is rather less sentimental.



Sir Robert Peel's Tamworth Manifesto was a landmark publication

It comes from an old Germanic word meaning to promise, but with the connotation of giving something - or someone - in security. And so in old French and from there in English, it could mean "hostage".

In the 11th-Century Song of Roland Charlemagne demands good hostages - "Bons pleges".

In Shakespeare the hostage connotation sometimes remains - the Duke of York in Richard II says of his son "I am in parliament pledge for his truth and fealty".

One sense of "pledge" - as the object given to a pawnbroker which is forfeited if a debt is not repaid - retains the meaning not just of a promise, but of risking something if it is not kept.

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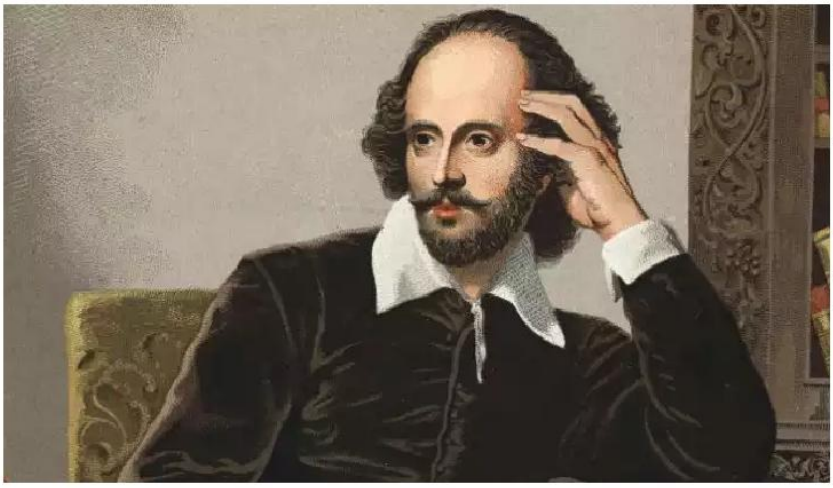
Posted in: News Posted: April 11, 2015

The 'Lost' Play By Shakespeare Has Been Found And Proven Authentic



The play *Double Falsehood* was completed then published by Lewis Theobald in 1728. However, new research has proven that the play was actually written over a century prior. The play was found to have be adapted from three manuscripts by William Shakespeare, according to the *Independent*. The original work was also proven to have been co-written by Shakespeare's close constituent, John Fletcher.

The notion that *Double Falsehood* was a Shakespeare original is not a new one. Scholars have reportedly been studying the work to uncover the truth for 300 years. This week, two scholars from the University of Texas finally published their finding that the play is, in fact, the work of William Shakespeare.

The study, conducted by UT scholars, involved an analysis of the writing styles of Shakespeare, Fletcher, and Theobald. What stood out to the scholars over everything else was the language of the play, which they found to be profoundly identical to what has become commonly called Shakespearian language. In fact, they found that the entire first half of the play was written by Shakespeare except a few verses which more closely resemble the work of John Fletcher.

> "The match between the 'Double Falsehood' play and Shakespeare was a landslide. It was shockingly clear. There's very little wiggle room to interpret the numbers any differently."

Analyzing *Double Falsehood* involved a lot of reading and comparing. The study, which was published by Ryan L. Boyd and James W. Pennebaker in the *Journal of Psychological Science*, involved the examination of 33 plays by Shakespeare, nine

by Fletcher, and 22 by Theobald. The overall result was that *Double Falsehood* contained the "psychological signature" of each author involved. The characteristics of a "psychological signature" are based on factors like phrase patterns, and word choices.

Looking at the study more closely, the UT scholars found that most of the play contained the signature of Shakespeare and Fletcher, with only a small presence from Theobald. This proved that Theobald only made minor edits to the work and never actually wrote a single line. Ryan Boyd recently made a statement to *CNN* about the lack of Theobald's "psychological signature" in the work that he so effortlessly took credit for.

> "We're certainly not suggesting that Theobald didn't make edits. But he clearly did not write it."

Still, with all the reasonable evidence that Boyd and Pennebaker have gathered in their study, they feel that 300-year-old conversations like this are not that easily silenced. With a lack of literature background, both scholars expect that literary experts will deny that the play is a "lost" play of William Shakespeare.

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the Florida coast in the 18th century and left behind his treasure. There is an annual carnival in Tampa in his honor.

New York.

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"Maybe my great-grandparents were pirates," Lopez said. "We are not sure what we're going to do with it. Possibly keep it forever, it's part of our family now."

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Mike Lopez, 35, said that their grandfather used to tell them stories about his father finding the treasure of the purported pirate José Gaspar, but they never believed him. They are now pretty convinced he was telling them the truth.

never believed him. They are now pretty convinced he was telling them the truth.

WTSP / Via

"Either my great-grandfather made the best, most elaborate pirate hoax ever and never shared it with anyone or he really did find some treasure on the Hillsborough River," Maria Lopez told the local news in an email. "There's really no way to know which is the case."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to the family for comment.

Gaspar is a well-known local legend. He supposedly pillaged the Florida coast in the 18th century and left behind his treasure. There is an annual carnival in Tampa in his honor.

Gaspar is a well-known local legend. He supposedly pillaged

Roberto Schmidt / Getty Images

"Maybe my great-grandparents were pirates," Lopez said. "We are not sure what we're going to do with it. Possibly keep it forever, it's part of our family now."

WTSP / Via

Ema O'Connor is a reporter for BuzzFeed News and is based in

These Siblings Found A Dried Up Severed Hand And "Pirate's Treasure" In Their Grandfather's Attic

BuzzFeed Staff

buzzfeed.com

Their grandparents really left them a handful.

posted on April 29, 2015, at 2:35 p.m.
Ema O'Connor

Mike and Maria Lopez were cleaning out their grandfather's attic in Tampa, Florida, when they came across some surprising items in an old box.

WTSP / Via

Mike and Maria Lopez were cleaning out their grandfather's attic in Tampa, Florida, when they came across some surprising items in an old box.

The objects included some old coins, a map, a wedding photograph of their great-grandparents, Eve and Ernesto Lopez, and a bone dry, severed, human hand with a ring on it.

The Lopezes took the box around to local antique stores who appraised the objects as "gruesome and authentic," *USA Today* reported.

The map is of the Tampa region as it existed in the 1930s, while the coins were said to be Portuguese and Spanish and, along with the ring, from the 18th century.

Eve and Ernesto Lopez.

WTSP

WTSP

Mike Lopez, 35, said that their grandfather used to tell them stories about his father finding the treasure of the purported pirate José Gaspar, but they

Thief Steals Fridge Under Dozing Clerk's Nose

By Sky News US Team sky.com

The brazen suspect drags the freezer away from the wall so as not to rouse the sleeping petrol station cashier.

17:37, UK,Friday 24April 2015

A brazen thief stole a bulky ice cream freezer at a Florida petrol station under the nose of a sleeping cashier.

Video of the incident shows the suspect taking almost 15 minutes to heave the cooler away in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Oakland Park.

He struck at 4:09am on Thursday 2 April after walking up to the Chevron convenience store to find the clerk snoozing on the other side of the window.

Footage shows him looking closely at the employee for a minute and then into the camera and before making an obscene gesture.

The sneaky thief examines the cooler from various angles before slowly dragging it away from the wall, so as not to rouse the sleeping cashier.

Dennis Norman, 25, of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with grand theft, said the Broward County sheriff.

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Third Time's No Charm For "Kid Cop," Arrested For Impersonating Officer Again

cbslocal.com

CHICAGO (CBS) — He's an adult now, but Chicago's infamous "kid cop" allegedly has been at it again. After fooling Chicago police into letting him on patrol in 2009 by impersonating an officer when he was 14 years old, Vincent Richardson has been arrested a third time for posing as a cop.

Richardson, now 21, was arrested in Englewood on Friday, along with another man. Police said Richardson and 21-year-old Dantrell Moore were wearing bulletproof vests, and police duty belts. They also had a police scanner and a stun gun.

In 2009, Richardson made national headlines when he dressed up as a police officer, and – despite being only 14 at the time – managed to work a full duty shift alongside real officers, and even was allowed to drive a squad car on patrol.

In 2013, he was arrested again after posing as an Englewood District officer, and trying to buy a real police uniform, and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

He also was arrested in 2010, and sentenced to juvenile detention, after pushing his mother and stealing his uncle's car. In 2011, he was charged as an adult with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

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This woman's not looking forward to the hottest day of the year - because she's allergic to the sun

Dubbed a 'real-life vampire', Lorraine Valentine suffers from a rare disease that's triggered by sunlight.

Lorraine Valentine

- By PA Real Life Features

Last updated: 10 April 2015, 11:44 BST

As temperatures are predicted to hit 21C in the UK - nearly double what is typical for this time of year - Lorraine Valentine is dreading it.

Mrs Valentine, dubbed a 'real-life vampire', suffers from the rare disease erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP) - which causes a severe burning sensation when she's exposed to sunlight or UV light.

Following one of her only holidays abroad, Miss Valentine ended up in hospital for six days – and, on returning to the UK, her skin swelled up, leaving her in agony.

Closed curtains

Miss Valentine, of Bournemouth, Dorset, said she was dreading today's weather.

"It's always worst when the sun first comes out, because I have no time to adjust," she said. "I have to pull the curtains closed and sit in a room without the sun on it and have a fan on.

"The heat is painful too so having on a fan on makes it better.

"The kids have been inside with me too.

"They're understanding, but the beach is just 10 minutes away. I should be on the beach with the kids, but I can't.

"I'm just trying not to get sunned on.

"Even driving somewhere, my arm is in pain from the sun coming through the window. I

don't know what I'll do when it gets even hotter."

In June last year, Miss Valentine ventured to Lanzarote - but it was a disaster.

"Even though I stayed in the shade, I ended up being covered up and in pain wherever I went," she explained.

"It was only at night I could enjoy the holiday, going to the beach and exploring the town in the dark."

Life-threatening condition

Miss Valentine was first diagnosed with the potentially life-threatening condition, a rare blood condition which attacks the liver, when she was nine.

There is often no physical sign on the body.

Everyday tasks like picking up the children from school are difficult, while even going into the supermarket causes pain, due to the bright lights reflecting on the floor.

"From March to November I completely cover up when I'm going to pick up the kids," she continued.

"When it's boiling hot, and I'm wearing boots, jeans, a big cardigan, scarf and hat, I do get funny looks off the parents. They think I'm a bit strange.

"I try to do normal things and not let it affect me."

EPP is hereditary - but none of her children suffer from the condition.

"It was difficult for them growing up. When I was crying because I was in so much pain, they couldn't even hold my hand. The slightest touch puts me in agony."

Holiday hell

Lorraine did not want her children Chloe, 18, Elisha, 14, Ben, 12 and Josh, 10, to miss out - so they travelled to Lanzarote in June 2014 for a summer holiday.

She bought UV protection socks, to block out sunlight, and booked an expensive apartment right near the pool, so she could stay indoors if needed, but see her children.

She said: "We went in June because I thought it would be less hot, but how wrong I was.

“I had to borrow a fan to sleep, and spent most of the evenings in the toilets of the entertainment area, putting cold water on my burning feet.

“The kids would give me the ice from their drinks to put on my feet.”

When they flew back a week later, her ordeal wasn’t over.

She said: “I was in such pain, crying and upset. I went through security and left the kids while I raced to get some cold water and some paper towels to try to ease the pain.

“On the plane I cried. Trying to sit there for four hours in agony with the pain of full thickness burns was awful. I had the air hostesses get me ice in the end.”

When the family were back in the UK, five hours later, Lorraine - who is this year running the London Marathon for British Porphyria Association, to help raise funds for other sufferers - was admitted to hospital.

She was kept in for six days and had extremely high liver function - one of the side-effects of the condition can be liver damage in severe cases.

But there is now hope for her and other sufferers.

She is supporting a new drug called Scenesse which is being trialled.

The drug acts as an anti-oxidant and activates melanin in skin, providing sufferers with a barrier between their skin and triggering wavelengths of light.

Lorraine said: “I’ll battle for this. I’ve suffered for so long and been through so much. There needs to be treatment available."

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Hungry men can EAT their wives, says Sheikh, sparking human rights outrage

mirror.co.uk

Top Saudi Sheikh issues bizarre fatwa allowing men to EAT their wives if they are hungry

- 10:52, 10 April 2015
- By Chris Hewett

The scarcely believable announcement from cleric Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah has outraged human rights campaigners

Getty

Controversial grand mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh has previously ordered all churches be destroyed

Men in Saudi Arabia "can eat their wives if they are suffering severe hunger" under a bizarre new fatwa reportedly announced by a religious leader in the country.

Saudi Arabian grand mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah allegedly issued the guidelines to allow a husband to eat his wife's body parts in extreme circumstances.

The cleric is reported to have said the ruling represents the "sacrifice of women and obedience to her husband" - but campaigners are understandably outraged.

The announcement has sparked major concerns about the already well-documented poor treatment of women in the country.

A statement reportedly from the cleric's office said: “A fatwa attributed to the Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah, which allows a man to eat his wife or parts of her body if the husband was afflicted with a severe hunger, raised concern and debate over social media since yesterday evening.

"The fatwa is interpreted as evidence of the sacrifice of women and obedience to her husband and her desire for the two to become one."

Saudi Arabia has an appalling record on human rights, including against women

The controversial Muslim leader has previously called on all churches to be destroyed under Islamic law.

Getty

But his latest declaration is yet to appear on his official website and no confirmation of its legitimacy has been made.

Women's rights in Saudi Arabia are notoriously scarce.

Until 2011 they were banned from voting or running in public elections and earlier this year all female television presenters were told they must adhere to a strict Islamic dress code.

The country has an abysmal human rights record, including against women, and females are banned from going anywhere in the country, or even opening a bank account, without a male chaperon.

Punishments for breaking such trivial laws include public lashings and humiliations.

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Touching wires means instant death and prosecution! hoaxes.org

Throughout much of the 20th Century, the following anecdote (in various forms) ran in many newspapers:

Outside a power station is a sign reading: "To touch these wires means instant death. Anyone disregarding this notice will be placed under arrest."

But where exactly did this sign hang? That's not clear. Or rather, if we're to believe all the various newspaper accounts, the sign popped up in many different locations.

The earliest version of the story that I've been able to find, from 1911, has the sign posted at a municipal electric power plant of a town in the south of Germany.

HERE'S AN AWFUL THREAT

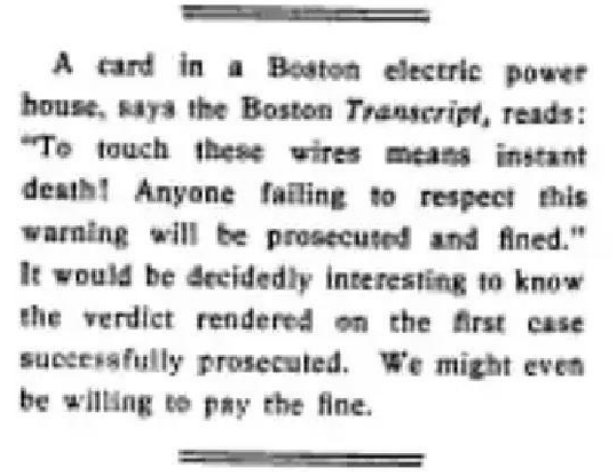
Germany Is Laughing at a Sign On a Municipal Electric Power Plant

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 20.—The following official notice posted on the wall of the municipal eletcric power plant of a town in the south of Germany is being widely reproduced in the press:

"To touch these wires means instant death. Any one failing to respect this warning will be prosecuted and fined."

Coffeyville Daily Journal - Nov 20, 1911 Power - July 9, 1912 Arlington Heights Herald - Feb 7, 1963

A year later, the trade journal *Power* reported that the sign was hanging at a Boston electric power house.



A card in a Boston electric power house, says the Boston *Transcript*, reads: "To touch these wires means instant death! Anyone failing to respect this warning will be prosecuted and fined." It would be decidedly interesting to know the verdict rendered on the first case successfully prosecuted. We might even be willing to pay the fine.

Power - July 9, 1912 Arlington Heights Herald - Feb 7, 1963

And by the early 1960s, the sign had moved to a power station in Illinois.

A correspondent in *Madison, New Jersey*, informs us of a sign outside a power station in Illinois: "To Touch These Wires Means Instant Death. Anyone Disregarding This Notice Will Be Placed Under Arrest."

Arlington Heights Herald - Feb 7, 1963

So which account was true? Or was the sign posted at all these various power stations?

My suspicion is that the sign was never posted anywhere, because the story reads like a joke

that was transformed into a supposedly factual news story. A location was added to create verisimilitude. As Gail de Vos notes in *Tales, Rumors, and Gossip*

(p.40):

references to place serve to establish authority in news reports and to make the event concrete in the minds of readers. References to setting give readers a sense of connection with the community. Tabloid journalism adopts the legends and sets them in the most 'effective' settings. To satisfy the enormous demands of their readers for new stories, tabloids often recycled old tales with new dates and locations; undoubtedly they did much of this recycling unintentionally, publishing and republishing the apocryphal tales that later became known as 'urban legends'.

In the case of the "touching wires means instant death" story, the original joke evidently poked fun at official regulations that lacked common sense — a well-established subject of humor. Placing the sign originally in Germany made sense, since the Germans were well known for their love of rules.

The story also demonstrates the popularity of "weird signs" as a genre of humor — a genre still very much alive on the Internet.

Of course, there's also the possibility that this sign really was once hung at a power station, but that it was done as a purposeful joke. Or perhaps a confused sign writer did post such a sign, not intending it as a joke, but the report of the sign then turned into an urban legend once the location began changing for different audiences.

Urban Legends

Posted on *Fri Apr 17, 2015*

Comments

The best contemporary example is probably the Newcastle Tramway Authority sign and its $200 fine; image search that name to instantly find it. Most comment on it as if it were real, but the only references to the NTA name are on pages that include that picture - where you'll note the sign has mounting holes but is not mounted - so it's doubtful any such agency ever existed.

Newcastle in New South Wales did have a tram system, but it was called the Metropolitan Newcastle System and shut down in 1950, some 16 years before Australia switched from the pound to the dollar. I'll wager a crisp new one dollar bill - or perhaps a fifty-year-old one pound note - that it's a novelty sign someone spotted in a Newcastle waterfront gift shop.
Posted by Mike in Massachusetts on Sun Apr 19, 2015 at 01:18 AM

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Town shocked by exorcism, bartered sex for services case

27min kcci.com

- **Town shocked by exorcism, bartered sex for services case**

UPDATED 6:13 PM CDT Apr 16, 2015

LAMONI, Iowa —According to documents released by the Iowa Board of Chiropractic on Wednesday, the license of a chiropractor has been suspended for "engaging in sexual contact with several patients."

The board said Charles Manuel, of Lamoni, engaged in unethical contact.

According to documents, Manuel "bartered sex for services with some of these patients" and "performed exorcisms as part of his chiropractic treatment of patients."

Manuel voluntarily surrendered his chiropractic license. He is not allowed to seek reinstatement for at least 10 years.

People in Lamoni, population 2,300, said they were shocked to hear the news.

"That's ridiculous, I mean an exorcism?" said Robert Jackson.

Jackson's apartment is just across the street from Manuel's former office.

"It's extremely scary. I'm appalled that it was going on exactly right across the street from where I'm staying. I don't know, I'm baffled," said Jackson.

Dr. Bryan Nowlin once shared the office with Dr. Manuel, but now he practices by himself.

Nowlin told KCCI, "We didn't notice any of that stuff while he was here."

Lindsey Williams also lives across the street. She said she's relieved she's only visited Nowlin.

"I never heard that he had been doing anything like that, but I'm glad I went to the other chiropractor," said Williams.

KCCI caught Lyndsay Bellinger as she left the office. She said she went to Manuel as a child, but has been seeing Nowlin for years.

"I couldn't believe it. I was really surprised," said Lyndsay Bellinger.

"That's ridiculous. You got to maintain your professionalism," said Terry Bellinger.

"So crazy, I just dismiss it as that can't be right," said Bob Ramsey and Jerie Gail Ramsey.

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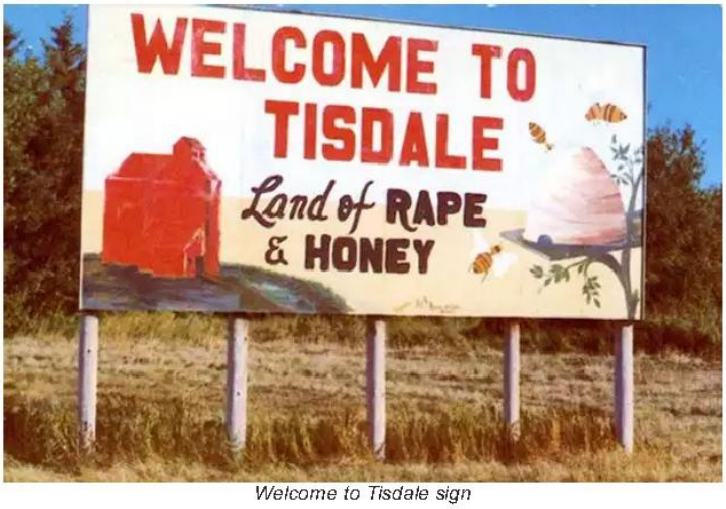
Town could ditch 'Land of Rape and Honey' slogan

mirror.co.uk

Town with slogan 'Land of Rape and Honey' may ditch infamous name after 60 years

- 22:41, 22 April 2015
- By Dan Bloom

Some residents in Tisdale, Canada, think the slogan about their once-booming oilseed rape trade is a bit insensitive



Welcome to Tisdale sign

Time for a change? The unfortunate sign in the town of Tisdale, Canada

A town which boasts of being 'The Land of Rape and Honey' may ditch its infamous slogan after nearly 60 years.

The 3,000 residents of Tisdale, Canada, are being polled on the name after some complained it was being misunderstood.

It's meant to refer to the town's once-booming oilseed rape industry, but the connotations with vile sexual assault have raised eyebrows.

The town's not even a rape capital any more, since the yellow crop used in farm feed and vegetable oil takes up less than 1% of its fields.

Even honey production has slowed, the Town Office admitted.

So chiefs have come up with alternative names including 'A Place to Bee' and 'Land of Canola and Honey', and they want townsfolk to vote.

PA

Distinctive crop: But oilseed rape gets a bad reputation for its unfortunate name (file photo)

Director of economic development Sean Wallace told CBC: "There's passionate people who believe it should be changed and passionate people who believe it shouldn't be changed.

"It's been both famous and infamous."

He and his team are asking business owners if they advertise the slogan to customers or whether they're too ashamed.

If they do decide to ditch it, the slogan would have to be removed from the town sign.

Survey entrants have been put in a prize draw to win a gas barbecue.

Map of Transylvania, J. B. Homann, c. 1720. (Wikimedia Commons)

(Jane) EMILY GERARD (1849-1905) was a Scottish writer married to an Austrian cavalry officer, a friend of Mark Twain during his time in Austria, and a longtime resident of Transylvania. She wrote an influential 1885 article on "Transylvianian Superstitions," portions of which were divided into several chapters of her 1888 book The Land Beyond the Forest. This article was read by Bram Stoker, who drew from it wholesale in shaping his masterpiece, Dracula. Among the elements borrowed from this article are the term nosferatu (first published in English in this piece) and the discussion of the Scholomance, or Devil's school (parts of which are reproduced in Dracula in very close paraphrase).

Transylvania might well be termed the land of superstition, for nowhere else does this curious crooked plant of delusion nourish as persistently and in such bewildering variety. It would almost seem as though the whole species of demons, pixies, witches, and hobgoblins, driven from the rest of Europe by the wand of science, had taken refuge within this mountain rampart, well aware that here they would find secure lurking-places, whence they might defy their persecutors yet awhile.

There are many reasons why these fabulous beings should retain an abnormally firm hold on the soil of these parts; and looking at the matter closely we find here no less than three separate sources of superstition.

First, there is what may be called the indigenous superstition of the country, the scenery of which is peculiarly adapted to serve as background to all sorts of supernatural beings and monsters. There are innumerable caverns, whose mysterious depths seem made to harbour whole legions of evil spirits: forest glades fit only for fairy folk on moonlight nights, solitary lakes which instinctively call up visions of water sprites; golden treasures lying hidden in mountain chasms, all of which have gradually insinuated themselves into the minds of the oldest inhabitants, the Roumenians, and influenced their way of thinking, so that these people, by nature imaginative and poetically inclined, have built up for themselves out of the surrounding materials a whole code of fanciful superstition, to which they adhere as closely as to their religion itself.

about his dress (such as buttons, boot nails, &c.), for this would assuredly prevent him from reaching Paradise, the road to which is long, and is, moreover, divided off by several tolls or ferries. To enable the soul to pass through these a piece of money must be laid in the hand, under the pillow, or beneath the tongue of the corpse. In the neighbourhood of Fogaras, where the ferries or toll-bars are supposed to amount to twenty-five, the hair of the defunct is divided into as many plaits, and a piece of money secured in each. Likewise, a small provision of needles, pins, thread, &c., are put into the coffin to enable the pilgrim to repair any damage his clothes may receive on the way.

The mourning songs, called *Bocete,* usually performed by paid mourners, are directly addressed to the corpse and sung into his ear on either side. This is the last attempt made by the survivors to wake the dead man to life, by reminding him of all he is leaving, and urging him to make a final effort to arouse his dormant faculties—the thought which underlies all these proceedings being, that the dead man hears and sees all that goes on around him, and that it only requires the determined effort of a strong will in order to restore elasticity to the stiffened limbs, and cause the torpid blood to flow again within the veins.

In many places two openings, corresponding to the ears of the deceased, are cut out in the wood of the coffin to enable him to hear the songs of mourning which are sung ou either side of him as he is carried to the grave.

This singing into the ears has passed into a proverb, and when the Roumenian says, *i-a-cantat la wechia* (he has sung into his ears), it is tantamount to saying that prayer and admonition have been used in vain.

The *Pomana,* or funeral feast, is invariably held after the funeral, for much of the peace of the defunct depends upon the strict observance of this ceremony. At this banquet all the favourite dishes of the dead man are served, and each guest receives a cake *(colac)* and a jug *(ulcior),* also a wax candle, in his memory. Similar *Pomanas* are repeated after a fortnight, six weeks, and on each anniversary for the next seven years; also, whenever the defunct has appeared in dream to any member of the family, this likewise calls for another *Pomana*; and when these conditions are not exactly complied with, the soul thus neglected is apt to wander complaining about the earth, and cannot find rest. These restless spirits, called *Strigoi,* are not malicious, but their appearance bodes no good, and may be regarded as omens of sickness or misfortune.

More decidedly evil, however, is the vampire, or *nosferatu,* in whom every Roumenian peasant believes as firmly as he does in heaven or hell. There are two sorts of vampires—living and dead. The living vampire is in general the illegitimate offspring of two illegitimate persons, but even a flawless pedigree will not ensure anyone against the intrusion of a vampire into his family vault, since every person killed by a *nosferatu* becomes likewise a vampire after death, and will continue to suck the blood of other innocent people till the spirit has been exorcised, either by opening the grave of the person suspected and driving a stake through the corpse, or firing a pistol shot into the coffin. In very obstinate cases it is further recommended to cut off the head and replace it in the coffin with the mouth filled with garlic, or to extract the heart and burn it, strewing the ashes over the grave.

That such remedies are often resorted to, even in our enlightened days, is a well-attested fact, and there are probably few Roumenian villages where such has not taken place within the memory of the inhabitants.

First cousin to the vampire, the long exploded were-wolf of the Germans is here to be found, lingering yet under the name of the *Prikolitsch.* Sometimes it is a dog instead of a wolf, whose form a man 'has taken either voluntarily or as penance for his sins. In one of the villages a story is still told (and believed) of such a man, who driving home from church on Sunday with his wife, suddenly felt that the time for his transformation had come. He therefore gave over the reins to her, and stepped aside into the bushes, where, murmuring the mystic formula, he turned three somersaults over a ditch. Soon after this the woman, waiting in vain for her husband, was attacked by a furious dog, which rushed, barking, out of the bushes and succeeded in biting her severely, as well as tearing her dress. When, an hour later, this

woman reached home alone she was met by her husband, who advanced smiling to meet her, but between his teeth she caught sight of the shreds of her dress which had been bitten out by the dog, and the horror of the discovery caused her to faint away.

Another man used gravely to assert that for more than five years he had gone about in the form of a wolf, leading on a troop of these animals, until a hunter, in striking off his head, restored him to his natural shape.

A French traveller relates an instance of a harmless botanist who, while collecting herbs on a hillside in a crouching attitude, was observed by some peasants at a distance and taken for a wolf. Before they had time to reach him, however, he had risen to his feet and disclosed himself in the form of a man; but this, in the minds of the Roumenians, who now regarded him as an aggravated case of wolf, was but additional motive for attacking him. They were quite sure that he must be a Prikolitsch, for only such could change his shape in such an unaccountable manner, and in another minute they were all in full cry after the wretched victim of science, who might have fared badly indeed, had he not happened to gain a carriage on the high road before his pursuers came up.

We do not require to go far for the explanation of the extraordinary tenacity of life of the were-wolf legend in a country like Transylvania, where real wolves still abound. Every winter here brings fresh proof of the boldness and cunning of these terrible animals, whose attacks on flocks and farms are often conducted with a skill which would do honour to a human intellect. Sometimes a whole village is kept in trepidation for weeks together by some particularly audacious leader of a flock of wolves, to whom the peasants not unnaturally attribute a more than animal nature, and one may safely prophesy that so long as the real wolf continues to haunt the Transylvanian forests, so long will his spectre brother survive in the minds of the inhabitants.

Many ancient Roumenian legends tell us that every new church or otherwise important building became a human grave, as it was thought indispensable to its stability to wall in a living man or woman, whose spirit henceforward haunts the place. In later times people having become less cruel, or more probably, because murder is now attended with greater inconvenience to the actors, this custom underwent some modifications, and it became usual in place of a living man to wall in his shadow instead. This is done by measuring the shadow of a person with a long piece of cord, or a ribbon made of strips of reed, and interring this measure instead of the person himself, who, unconscious victim of the spell thrown upon him, will pine away and die within forty days. It is an indispensable condition to the success of this proceeding that the chosen victim be ignorant of the part he is playing, therefore careless passers-by near a building place may often hear the warning cry ' Beware, lest they take thy shadow!' So deeply engrained is this superstition that not long ago there were still professional shadow-traders, who made it their business to provide architects with the necessary victims for securing their walls. 'Of course the man whose shadow is thus interred must die,' argues the Roumenian, ' but as he is unaware of his doom he does not feel any pain or anxiety, so it is less cruel than walling in a living man.'

The superstitions afloat among the Saxon peasantry of Transylvania relate oftenest to household matters, such as the well-being of cattle and poultry and the success of the harvest or vintage. There is more of the quack, and less of the romantic element to be found here, and the invisible spiritual world plays less part in their beliefs.

Some of the most prevalent Saxon superstitions are as follows:

1. Whoever can blow back the flame into a candle which has just been extinguished will become pastor.

2. In going into a new-built house one must throw in a dog or a cat before entering, otherwise one of the family will soon die.

3. If a swallow fly under a cow straightway the milk will become bloody.

4. Whoever enters a strange house should sit down, were it only for a second, otherwise he will deprive the inhabitants of their sleep.

5. Whoever has been robbed of anything and wants to discover the thief, must select a black hen, and for nine consecutive Fridays must, as well as the hen, abstain from all food. The thief will then either die or bring back the stolen goods. (This is called taking up the black fast against a person.)

6. It is not good to point with the finger at an approaching thunderstorm; likewise, whoever stands over-long gazing at the summer lightning will go mad.

7. A person ill with the fever should be covered up with nine articles of clothing, each of a different colour and material: he will then recover.

8. Another way to get rid of the fever is to go into an inn or public-house, and after having drunk a glass of wine to go out again without speaking or paying, but leaving behind some article of clothing which is of greater value than the wine drunk.

9. Drinking out of seven different wells is likewise good for the fever.

10. Or else go into the garden when no one is looking, shake a young fruit tree and return to the house without looking back; the fever will then have passed into the tree.

11. Any article purposely dropped on the ground when out walking will convey the fever to whoever finds it. This method is, however, to be distrusted (we are told by village authorities), for the finder may avert the illness by thrice spitting on the thing in question. Spitting on all and every occasion is in general very efficacious for averting spells and other evils.

12. A hailstorm may sometimes be stopped by a knife stuck into the ground in front of the house.

13. A new servant must be allowed to eat freely the first day he or she enters service, otherwise their hunger will never be stilled.

14. It is bad luck to rock an empty cradle.

15. When someone has just died the window must be opened to let the soul escape.

16. It is not considered good to count the beehives or the loaves when they are put into the oven.

17. When the master of the house dies, one must go and tell it to the bees, and to the cattle in the stables, otherwise some new misfortune is sure to happen.

18. If the New Year's night be clear the hens will lay many eggs during the year.

19. It is not good to whitewash the house when the moon is decreasing, for that produces bugs.

20. Who eats mouldy bread will be rich and longlived.

21. Rubbing the body with garlic is a preservative against witchcraft and the pest.

22. Licking the platter clean at table will bring fine weather.

23. A funeral at which the bells are not rung brings hail.

24. When foxes and wolves meet in the market-place then prices will rise (naturally, since wolves and foxes could only be so bold during the greatest cold, when prices of eggs, butter, &c., are always at their highest).

25. To keep sparrows off a field or garden it is only necessary to sprinkle earth taken at midnight from the churchyard over the place.

26. A broom put upside down behind the door will keep away the witches.

27. It is bad luck to lay a loaf upside down on the table.

28. In carrying a child to church to be christened it is important to carry it by the broadest streets, and to avoid narrow lanes and byways, else when it is big it will become a thief.

29. If a murderer be confronted with the corpse of his victim the wounds will begin to bleed again.[16]

[16. Also believed by the Roumenians.]

30. Avoid a toad, as it may be a witch.

31. Little children's nails should be bitten off instead of cut the first time, lest they learn to steal.

32. An approved sort of love charm is to take the two hind legs of a green tree-frog, bury these in an anthill till all the flesh is removed, then tie them up securely in a linen handkerchief, and whosoever touches this linen will be seized at once with love for its owner.

33. To avert many illnesses which may occur to the pigs, it is still customary in some places for the swineherd to dispense with his clothes the first time he drives out his pigs to pasture in spring. A newly elected clergyman, regarding this practice as immoral, tried to forbid it in his parish, but was sternly asked by the village bailiff whether he was prepared to pay for all the pigs which would assuredly die that year in consequence of the omission.

34. The same absence of costume is likewise recommended to women assisting a cow to calve.

The night of St. Thomas (21st of December) is the date consecrated by Saxon superstition to the celebration of the games which elsewhere are usual on All-Halloween. Every girl puts her fate to the test on this evening, and there are various ways of so doing (too lengthy to be here described), with shoes, flowers,- onions, &c. For the twelve days following it is not allowed to spin, and the young men who visit the spinning-room of the girls have the right to break and burn all the distaffs they find, so it has become usual for the maidens to appear with a stick dressed up with wool to represent the distaff instead of a real spinning-wheel.

Some of the Saxon customs are peculiarly interesting from being obviously remnants of Paganism, and are a curious proof of the force of verbal tradition, which in this case has not only borne the transplantation from a far distant country, but likewise weathered the storm of two successive changes of religion.

A very strong proof of the tenacity of Pagan habits and train of thought is, I think, the fact, that although at the time these Saxon colonists appeared in Transylvania, towards the second part of the twelfth century, they had already belonged to the Christian Church for more than three hundred years, yet many points of the landscape in their new home baptized by them have received Pagan appellations. Thus we find the *Götzenberg [17]* or mountain of the gods, and the *wodesch* and the *wolnk* applied to woods and plains, both evidently derived from Wodan.

[17. The word *Götzen* in German signifies Pagan deities.]

Many old Pagan ceremonies are still clearly to be distinguished through the flimsy shrouding of a later period, and their origin unmistakable even through the surface-varnish of Christianity which was thought

necessary to adapt them to newer circumstances, and like a clumsily remodelled garment the original cut frequently asserts itself, despite the fashionable trimmings which now adorn it. In many popular rhymes and dialogues, for instance, it has been clearly proved that those parts now assigned to the Saviour and St. Peter originally belonged to the old gods Thor and Loki; while the faithless Judas has had the personification of a whole hoard of German demons thrust upon him. It is likewise strongly to be suspected that St. Elias who in some parts of Hungary, as well as in Roumenia, Servia, and Croatia, is considered the proper person to be invoked in thunderstorms, is verily no other than the old thunder god Thor, under a Christian mask.

One of the most striking of the Christianised dramas just mentioned is the *Todanatragm,* or throwing out the Death, a custom still extant in several of the Transylvanian Saxon villages, and which may likewise be found still existing in some remote parts of Germany. The feast of the Ascension is the day on which this ceremony takes place in a village of this neighbourhood. It is conducted in the following manner:--

After forenoon church on that day, the school-girls of the parish repair to the house of one of their companions, and there proceed to dress up the 'Death.' This is done by tying up a threshed-out cornsheaf into the rough semblance of a head and body, while the arms are simulated by a broomstick stuck horizontally. This done, the figure is dressed up in the Sunday clothes of a young village matron, the head adorned with the customary cap and veil fastened by silver pins; two large black beads, or black-headed pins, represent the eyes, and thus equipped the figure is displayed at the open window, in order that all people may see it, on their way to afternoon church. The conclusion of vespers [18] is the signal for the girls to seize the figure and open the procession round the village; two of the eldest girls hold the 'Death' between them, and the others follow in regular order two and two, singing a Lutheran Church hymn. The boys are excluded from the procession, and must content themselves with admiring the *Schtiner Tod* (handsome Death) from a distance. When all the village streets have been traversed in this manner, the girls repair to another house, whose door is locked against the besieging troop of boys. The figure Death is here stripped of its gaudy attire, and the naked straw bundle thrown out of the window, whereupon it is seized by the boys and carried off in triumph to be thrown into the neighbouring stream or river. This is the first part of the drama, while the second consists in one of the girls being solemnly invested with the clothes and ornaments previously worn by the figure, and like it, led in procession round the village to the singing of the same hymn as before. This is to represent the arrival of summer. The ceremony terminates by a feast given by the parents of the girl who has acted the principal part, from which the boys are again excluded.

[18. Afternoon church is always called vespers by the Saxon villager, though I believe it has no resemblance to the chanted vespers of the Roman Catholics.]

According to popular belief it is allowed to eat fruits Only after this day, as now the 'Death,' that is, the unwholesomeness, has been expelled from them. Also the river in which the Death has been drowned may now be considered fit for public bathing.

If this ceremony be ever omitted in the villages where it is customary, this neglect is supposed to entail the death of one of the youths or maidens.

This same ceremony may, as I have said, be found still lingering in many other places, everywhere with slight variations. There are villages where the figure is burnt instead of drowned, and Passion Sunday (often called the Dead Sunday"), or else the 25th of March, are the days sometimes chosen for its accomplishment. In some places it was usual for the straw figure to be attired in the shirt of the last person who had died, and with the veil of the most recent bride on its head. Also the figure is occasionally pelted with stones by the youth of both sexes; whoever hits it will not die during the year.

At Nuremberg little girls dressed in white used to go in procession through the town, carrying a small open coffin, in which a doll was laid out in state, or sometimes only a stick dressed up, with an apple to represent the head.

In many of these German places, the rhymes which are sung apply to the advent of summer and the extinction of winter, such as the following:--

And now we have chased the death away
And brought in the summer so warm and so gay;
The summer and the month of May
We bring sweet flowers full many a one.
We bring the rays of the golden sun,

For the dreary death at last is gone.

or else,

Come all of you and do not tarry
The evil death away to carry;
Come, spring, once more, with us to dwell,

Welcome, O spring, in wood and dell!

And there is no doubt that similar rhymes used also to be sung here, until they were replaced by the Lutheran hymns.

Some German archaeologists have attempted to prove that 'death' in these games is of more recent introduction, and has replaced the 'winter' of former times, so as to give the ceremony a more Christian colouring by the allusion of the triumph of Christ over death, on His resurrection and ascension into heaven. Without presuming to contradict the many well-known authorities who have taken this view of the case, I cannot help thinking that it hardly requires such explanation to account for the presence of death in these dramas. Nowadays, when luxury and civilisation have done so much towards equalising all seasons, so that we can never be deprived of flowers in winter, nor want for ice in summer, we can with difficulty realise the enormous gulf which in olden times separated winter from summer. Not only in winter were all means of communication cut off for a large proportion of people, but their very existence was, so to say, frozen up; and if the granaries were scantily filled, or the inclement season prolonged by some weeks, death was literally standing at the door of thousands of poor wretches. No wonder, then, that winter and death became identical in their minds, and that they hailed the advent of spring with delirious joy, dancing round the first violet, and following about the first cockchafer in solemn procession. It was the feast of Nature which they celebrated then as now—Nature mighty and eternal—which must always remain essentially the same, whether decked out in Pagan or Christian garb.

Another remnant of Paganism is the *Feurix* or *Feuriawolf,* which lingers yet in the mind of these people. According to ancient German mythology the *Feuriawolf* is a monster which, on the last day, is to open his mouth so wide that the top jaw touches the sky, and the lower one the earth; and not long ago a Saxon woman bitterly complained in a court of j ustice that her husband had cursed her over strongly, in saying, 'Der warlthangd saul dich frieszen;' literally, 'May the world-dog swallow thee!'

The gipsies take up a different position as regards superstition from either Roumenian or Saxon, since they may be rather considered to be direct causes and mainsprings of superstition, than victims of credulity themselves. The Tzigane, whose religion is of such an extremely superficial nature that he rarely believes in anything as complicated as the immortality of the soul, can hardly be supposed to lay much weight upon the supernatural; and if he instinctively avoids such places as churchyards, gallow-trees, &c., his feelings are rather those of a child who shirks being reminded of anything so unpleasant as death or burial.

That, however, these people exercise a considerable influence on their Saxon and Roumenian neighbours is undoubted, and it is a paradoxical fact, that the same people who regard the gipsy as an

undoubted thief, liar, and cheat, in all the common transactions of daily life, do not hesitate to confide in him blindly for charmed medicines and love-potions, and are ready to attribute to him unerring power in deciphering the mysteries of the future.

The Saxon peasant will, it is true, often drive away the fortuneteller with blows and curses from his door, but his wife, as often as not, will secretly beckon to her to come in again by the back door, in order to be consulted as to the illness of the cows, or to beg from her a remedy against the fever.

Wonderful potions and salves, in which the fat of bears, dogs, snakes and snails, along with the oil of rain-worms, the bodies of spiders and midges rubbed into a paste, and many other similar ingredients, are concocted by these cunning Bohemians, who will sometimes thus make thrice as much money out of the carcass of a dead dog as another from the sale of three healthy pigs.

It has also been averred that both Roumenian and Saxon mothers, whose sickly infants are thought to be suffering from the effects of the evil eye, are frequently in the habit of giving the child to be nursed for a period of nine days to some gipsy woman, who is supposed to be able to undo the spell.

There is not a village which does not boast of one or more fortunetellers, and living in the suburbs of each town are many old women who make an easy and comfortable livelihood only by imposing on the credulity of their fellow-creatures.

The gipsies, one of whose principal trades is the burning of bricks and tiles, are often accused of occasioning lengthy droughts to suit their own purposes. When this has occurred, and the necessary rains have not been produced by soundly beating the guilty Tziganes, the Roumenians sometimes resort to the *Papaluga,* or Rain-maiden. This is done by stripping a young gipsy girl quite naked, and dressing her up with wreaths of flowers and leaves which entirely cover her up, leaving only the head visible. Thus adorned, the Papaluga is conducted round the villages in procession, to the sound of music and singing, and everyone hastens to water her copiously.

If also the Papaluga fails to bring the desired rain, then the evil must evidently be of a deeper and more serious nature, and is to be attributed to a vampire, who must be sought out and destroyed in the manner described above.

The part of the Papaluga is also sometimes enacted by a Roumenian maiden, when there is no reason to suspect the gipsies of being concerned in the drought. This custom of the Rain-maiden is also to be found in Servia, and I believe in Croatia.

It would be endless were I to attempt to enumerate all the different sorts of superstition afloat in this country; for besides the three principal definitions here given, the subject comprises innumerable other side branches, and might further be divided into the folk-lore of shepherds, farmers, hunters, miners, fishermen, &c., each of these separate callings having its own peculiar set of signs, customs, charms, and traditions to go by.

Superstition is an evil which every person with a well-balanced mind should wish to die out, yet it cannot be denied that some of these fancies are graceful and suggestive. Nettles and briars, albeit mischievous plants, may yet come in picturesquely in a landscape; and although the stern agriculturist is bound to rejoice at their uprooting, the softer-hearted artist is surely free to give them a passing sigh of regret.

Source: E. Gerard, "Transylvanian Supersitions," The Nineteenth Century, July 1885,130-150.

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Secondly, there is here the imported superstition: that is to say, the old German customs and beliefs brought hither seven hundred years ago by the Saxon colonists from their native land, and like many other things, preserved here in greater perfection than in the original country.

Thirdly, there is the wandering superstition of the gypsy tribes, themselves a race of fortune-tellers and witches, whose ambulating caravans cover the country as with a network, and whose less vagrant members fill up the suburbs of towns and villages.

Of course all these various sorts of superstition have twined and intermingled, acted and reacted upon each other, until in many cases it is a difficult matter to determine the exact parentage of some particular belief or custom; but in a general way the three sources I have named may be admitted as a rough sort of classification in dealing with the principal superstitions afloat in Transylvania.

There is on this subject no truer saying than that of Grimm, to the effect that' superstition in all its manifold varieties constitutes a sort of religion, applicable to the common household necessities of daily life,' [1] and as such, particular forms of superstition may very well serve as guide to the characters and habits of the particular nation in which they are prevalent.

[1 'Der Aberglaube in seiner Mannigfaltigkeit bildct gewissermassen einc Religion fur den ganzen niederen Hausbedarf.']

The spirit of evil (or, not to put too fine a point upon it, the devil) plays a conspicuous part in the Roumenian code of superstition, and such designations as the Gregynia Drakuluj (devil's garden), the Gania Drakuluj (devil's mountain), Yadu Drakuluj (devil's hell or abyss), &c. &c., which we frequently find attached to rocks, caverns, or heights, attest the fact that these people believe themselves to be surrounded on all sides by a whole legion of evil spirits.

The devils are furthermore assisted by witches and dragons, and to all of these dangerous beings are ascribed peculiar powers on particular days and at certain places. Many and curious are therefore the means by which the Roumenians endeavour to counteract these baleful influences, and a whole complicated study, about as laborious as the mastering of any unknown language, is required in order to teach an unfortunate peasant to steer clear of the dangers by which he considers himself to be beset on all sides. The bringing up of a common domestic cow is apparently as difficult a task as the rearing of any dear gazelle, and even the well-doing of a simple turnip or potato about as precarious as that of the most tender exotic plant.

Of the seven days of the week, Wednesday (Miercuri) and Friday (Vinire) are considered suspicious days, on which it is not allowed to use needle or scissors, or to bake bread; neither is it wise to sow flax on these days. Venus (called here Paraschiva), to whom the Friday is sacred, punishes all infractions of this rule by causing tires or other misfortunes.

Tuesday, however (Marti, named from Mars, the bloody god of war), is a decidedly unlucky day, on which spinning is totally prohibited, and even such seemingly harmless pursuits as washing the hands or combing the hair are not unattended by danger. On Tuesday evening about sunset, the evil spirit of that day is in its fullest force, and in many districts the people refrain from leaving their huts between sunset and midnight. 'May the *mar sara* (spirit of Tuesday evening) carry you off,' is here equivalent to saying 'May the devil take you!'

It must not, however, be supposed that Monday, Thursday, and Saturday are unconditionally lucky days, on which the Roumenian is at liberty to do as he pleases. Thus every well educated Roumenian matron knows that she may wash on Thursdays and spin on Saturdays, but that it would be a fatal mistake to reverse the order of these proceedings; and though Thursday is a lucky day for marriage,[2] and is on that account mostly chosen for weddings, it is proportionately unfavourable to agriculture. In many parishes it is considered dangerous to work in the fields on all Thursdays between Easter and Pentecost,

and it is believed that if these days are not set aside as days of rest, ravaging hailstorms will be the inevitable punishment of the impiety. Many of the more enlightened Roumenian pastors have preached in vain against this belief, and some years ago the members of a parish presented an official complaint to the bishop, requesting the removal of their *cure,* on the ground that not only he gave bad example by working on the prohibited days, but had actually caused them serious material damage, by the hailstorms his sinful behaviour had provoked.

[2. This would seem to suggest a German (or Celtic) origin. Donar, as god of marriages, blesses unions with his hammer.]

This respect of the Thursday seems to be the remains of a deeply ingrained, though now unconscious, worship of Jupiter (Zoi), who gives his name to the day.

To different hours of the day are likewise ascribed different influences, favourable or the reverse. Thus it is always considered unlucky to look at oneself in the glass after sunset; also it is not wise to sweep the dust over the threshold in the evening, or to give back a sieve or a whip which has been borrowed of a neighbour.

The exact hour of noon is precarious on account of the evil spirit *Pripolniza,[3]* and so is midnight because of the *miase ndpte* (night spirit), and it is safer to remain within doors at these hours. If, however, some misguided peasant does happen to leave his home at midnight, and espies (as very likely he may) a flaming dragon in the sky, he need not necessarily give himself up as lost, for if he have the presence of mind to stick a fork into the ground alongside of him, the fiery monster will thereby be prevented from carrying him off.

[3. This spirit corresponds to the l'olednice of the Bohemians and the Poludnica of the Poles and Russians. Grimm, in speaking of the Russians, in his German Mythology, quotes from Boxhorn's *Resp. Moscoe.*: 'Daemonem meridianum Moscovitae et colunt.']

The finger which ventures to point at a rainbow will be straightway seized by a gnawing disease, and a rainbow appearing in December is always considered to bode misfortune.

The Greek Church, to which the Roumenians exclusively belong, has an abnormal number of feast-days, to almost each of which peculiar customs and superstitions are attached. I will here only attempt to mention a few of the principal ones.

On New Year's Day it is customary for the Roumenian to interrogate his fate, by placing a leaf of evergreen on the freshly swept and heated hearthstone. If the leaf takes a gyratory movement he will be lucky, but if it shrivels up where it lies, then he may expect misfortune during the coming year. To ensure the welfare of the cattle it is advisable to place a gold or silver piece in the watertrough, out of which they drink for the first time on New Year's morning.

The feast of the Epiphany, or Three Kings *(Tre crai)* is one of the oldest festivals, and was solemnised by the Oriental Church as early as the second century, fully 200 years before it was adopted by the Latins. On this day, which popular belief regards as the coldest in the winter, the blessing of the waters, known as the feast of the Jordan, or *bobetasxt* (baptism) feast, takes place. The priests, attired in their richest vestments, proceed to the shore of the nearest river or lake, and bless the waters, which have been unclosed by cutting a Greek cross some six or eight feet long in the surface of the ice. Every pious Roumenian is careful to fill a bottle with the consecrated water before the surface freezes over, and preserves it, tightly corked and sealed up, as an infallible remedy in case of illness.

Particularly lucky is considered whoever dies on that day, for he will be sure to go straight to heaven, the door of which is supposed to stand open all day, in memory of the descent of the Holy Ghost at the baptism of Christ.

The feast of St. Theodore, 11th of January (corresponding to our 23rd of January), is a day of rest for the girls, and whichever of them transgresses the rule is liable to be carried off by the saint, who sometimes appears in the shape of a beautiful youth, sometimes as a terrible monster.

The Wednesday in Holy Week is very important. The Easter cakes and breads are baked on this day, and some crumbs are mixed up with the cow's fodder; woe to the woman who indulges in a nap to-day, for the whole year she will not be able to shake off her drowsiness. In the evening the young men in each home bind as many wreaths as there are members of the family: each of these is marked with the name of an individual and thrown up upon the roof. The wreaths which fall down to the ground indicate those who will die that year.

Skin diseases are cured by taking a bath on Good Friday, in a stream or river which flows towards the east.

In the night preceding Easter Sunday witches and demons are abroad, and hidden treasures are said to betray their site by a glowing flame. No God-fearing peasant will, however, allow himself to be tempted by the hopes of such riches, which he cannot on that day appropriate without sin. On no account should he presume to absent himself from the midnight church service, and his devotion will be rewarded by the mystic qualities attached to the wax candle he has carried in his hand, and which when lighted hereafter during a thunderstorm will infallibly keep the lightning from striking his house.

The greatest luck which can befall a mortal is to be born on Easter Sunday while the bells are ringing, but it is not lucky to die on that day. The spoon with which the Easter eggs have been removed from the boiling pot is carefully treasured up, and worn in the belt by the shepherd; it gives him the power to distinguish the witches who seek to molest his flock.

Perhaps the most important day in the year is St. George's, the 23rd of April (corresponds to our 5th of May), the eve of which is still frequently kept by occult meetings taking place at night in lonely caverns or within ruined walls, and where all the ceremonies usual to the celebration of a witches' Sabbath are put into practice.

The feast itself is the great day to beware of witches, to counteract whose influence square-cut blocks of green turf are placed in front of each door and window.[4] This is supposed effectually to bar their entrance to the house or stables, but for still greater safety it is usual here for the peasants to keep watch all night by the sleeping cattle.

[4. This is also usual in Poland, Moldavia, and the Bukowinq.]

This same night is the best for finding treasures, and many people spend it in wandering about the hills trying to probe the earth for the gold it contains. Vain and futile as such researches usually are, yet they have in this country a somewhat greater semblance of reason than in most other parts, for perhaps nowhere else have so many successive nations been forced to secrete their riches in flying from an enemy, to say nothing of the numerous veins of undiscovered gold and silver which must be seaming the country in all directions. Not a year passes without bringing to light some earthern jar containing old Dacian coins, or golden ornaments of Roman origin, and all such discoveries serve to feed and keep up the national superstition.

In the night of St. George's Day (so say the legends) all these treasures begin to burn, or, to speak in mystic language, to 'bloom' in the bosom of the earth, and the light they give forth, described as a bluish flame resembling the colour of lighted spirits of wine, serves to guide favoured mortals to their place of concealment. The conditions to the successful raising of such a treasure are manifold, and difficult of accomplishment. In the first place, it is by no means easy for a common mortal who has not been born on a Sunday nor at midday when the bells are ringing, to hit upon a treasure at all. If he does, however, catch sight of a flame such as I have described, he must quickly stick a knife through the swaddling rags

of his right foot,[5] and then throw the knife in the direction of the flame he has seen. If two people are together during this discovery they must not on any account break silence till the treasure is removed, neither is it allowed to fill up the hole from which anything has been taken, for that would induce a speedy death. Another important feature to be noted is that the lights seen before midnight on St. George's Day, denote treasures kept by benevolent spirits, while those which appear at a later hour are unquestionably of a pernicious nature.

[5. The Koumenian peasant does not wear shoes or stockings, but has his feet swaddled up in linen rags, which are kept in their place by a rough sandal made of a flat piece of leather.]

For the comfort of less-favoured mortals, who happen neither to have been born on a Sunday, nor during bell-ringing, I must here mention that these deficiencies may be to some extent condoned and the mental vision sharpened by the consumption of mouldy bread; so that whoever has during the preceding year been careful to feed upon decayed loaves only, may (if he survives this trying *regime)* be likewise the fortunate discoverer of hidden treasures.

Sometimes the power of discovering a particular treasure is supposed to be possessed only by members of some particular family. A curious instance of this was lately recorded in Roumenia relating to an old ruined convent, where, according to a popular legend, a large sum of gold is concealed. A deputation of peasants, at considerable trouble and expense, found out the last surviving member of the family supposed to possess the mystic power, and offered him, unconditionally, a very handsome sum merely for his assistance in the search. The gentleman in question, being old, and probably sceptical, declined the offer, to the great disappointment of the peasant deputation.

The feast of St. George, being the day when flocks are first driven out to pasture, is in a special manner the feast of all shepherds and cowherds, and on this day only it is allowed to count the flocks and assure oneself of the exact number of sheep. In general, these numbers are but approximately guessed at, and vaguely designated. Thus the Roumenian shepherd, interrogated as to the number of his master's sheep, will probably inform you that they are as numerous as the stars of heaven, or as the daisies which dot the meadows.

The throwing up of wreaths on to the roofs, described above, is in some districts practised on the feast of St. John the Baptist, the 24th of June (July 6th), instead of on the Wednesday in Holy Week. Fires lighted on the mountains this same night are supposed to protect the flocks from evil spirits.

The feast of St. Elias, the 20th of July (August 1), is a very unlucky day, on which the lightning may be expected to strike.

If a house struck by lightning begins to burn, it is not allowed to put out the flames, because God has lit the fire and it would be presumption if man were to dare to meddle.[6] In some places it is believed that a fire lit by lightning can only be put out with milk.

[6. Also believed in Poland.]

An approved method for averting the danger of the dwelling being struck by lightning is to form a top by sticking a knife through a piece of bread, and spin it on the floor of the loft during the whole time the storm lasts. The ringing of bells is likewise very efficacious, provided, however, that the bell in question has been cast under a perfectly cloudless sky.

As I am on the subject of thunderstorms, I may as well here mention the *Scholomance,* or school supposed to exist somewhere in the heart of the mountains, and where all the secrets of nature, the language of animals, and all imaginable magic spells and charms are taught by the devil in person. Only ten scholars are admitted at a time, and when the course of learning has expired and nine of them are

released to return to their homes, the tenth scholar is detained by the devil as payment, and mounted upon an *Ismeju* (dragon) he becomes henceforward the devil's aide-de-camp, and assists him in 'making the weather,' that is to say, preparing the thunderbolts.

A small lake, immeasurably deep, lying high up among the mountains to the south of Hermanstadt, is supposed to be the cauldron where is brewed the thunder, and in fair weather the dragon sleeps beneath the waters. Roumenian peasants anxiously warn the traveller to beware of throwing a stone into this lake lest it should wake the dragon and provoke a thunderstorm. It is, however, no mere superstition that in summer there occur almost daily thunderstorms at this spot, about the hour of midday, and numerous cairns of stones round the shores attest the fact that many people have here foundtheir death by lightning. On this account the place is shunned, and no Roumenians will venture to rest here at the hour of noon.

Whoever turns three somersaults the first time he hears the thunder will be free from pains in the back during a twelvemonth, and the man who wishes to be ensured against headache has only to rub it against a stone or knock it with a piece of iron.

The Polish harvest custom of decking out a girl with a wreath of corn ears, and leading her in procession to the house of the landed proprietor, is likewise practised here, with the difference that instead of the songs customary in Poland, the girl is here followed with loud cries of' Prihu! Prihu!' or else ' Priku!' [7] and that whoever meets her on the way is bound to sprinkle the wreath with water. If this detail be neglected the next year's crops will assuredly fail. It is also customary to keep the wreaths till next sowing time, when the corn is shaken out, and mingled with the grain to be sowed will ensure a rich harvest.

[7. Archaeologists have derived this word from *Pri,* which in Sanscrit means fruitful, and *Hv,* the god of the Celtic deluge tradition, also regarded as a personification of fruitful nature.]

The feast of St. Spiridion, the 12th of December (corresponding to our 24th), is an ominous day, especially for housewives, and the saint often destroys those who desecrate his feast by manual labour.

That the cattle are endowed with speech during the Christmas night is a general belief, but it is not considered wise to pry upon them and try to overhear what they say, or the listener will rarely overhear any good.

This night is likewise favourable to the discovery of hidden treasures, and the man who has courage to conjure up the evil spirit will be sure to see him if he call upon him at midnight. Three burning coals placed upon the threshold will prevent the devil from carrying him off.

Christmas carols and dramas are also usual among the Roumenians, under the name of Kolinda, supposed to be derived from Kolinda or Lada, goddess of peace.[8] Amongst the parts enacted in these games, are those of Judas, who stands at the door and receives the money collected, and that of the bull, called Turka or Tur,[9] a sort of vague monster fantastically dressed up, half bull, half bear, with a clattering wooden bill, and a dash of Herod about his character, in so far as he is supposed to devour little children, and requires to be propitiated by a copper coin thrust into his bill.[10] In many districts the personating of these characters is supposed to entail a certain amount of odium upon the actors, who are regarded as unclean or bewitched by the devil during a period of six weeks, and may not enter a church nor approach a sacrament till this time has elapsed.

[8. The Council of Constantinople, 869 A.D., forbade the members of the Oriental Church to keep the feast of the Pagan goddess, Kolinda, occurring on the shortest day.]
[9. Called Turon by the Poles, who have many similar games.]
[10. This detail would seem to bear some resemblance to Saturn devouring his children, and being cheated by stones thrown into his jaws.]

A leaf of evergreen laid into a plate of water on the last day of the year when the bells are ringing will denote health, sickness, or death, during the coming year, according as it is found to be green, spotted, or black on the following morning.

The girl whose thoughts are turned towards love and matrimony has many approved methods of testing her fate on this night.

First of all she may, by cracking the joints of her fingers, accurately ascertain the number of her admirers, also a freshly laid egg broken into a glass of water will give much clue to the events in store for her by the shape it adopts. To form a conjecture as to the shape and build of her future husband, she is recommended to throw an armful of firewood as far as she can from her; the piece which has gone furthest will be the image of her intended, according as the stick happens to be tall or short, broad or slender, straight or crooked.

If these general indications do not suffice, and she wishes to see the reflection of his face in the water, she has only to step naked at midnight into the nearest lake or river. Very efficacious is it likewise to stand at midnight on the dunghill with a piece of Christmas cake in her mouth, and listen for the first sound of a dog's barking which reaches her ear. From whichever side it proceeds will also come the expected suitor.

Of the household animals, the sheep is the most highly prized by the Roumenian, who makes of it his companion, and frequently his counsellor, and by its bearing it is supposed often to give warning when danger is near.

The swallow is here, as elsewhere, a luck-bringing bird, and goes by the name of *galinele lui Dieu* (fowls of the Lord). There is always a treasure to be found near the place where the first swallow has been espied.

The crow, on the contrary, is a bird of evil omen, and is particularly ominous when it flies straight over the head of any man.[11]

The magpie perched upon a roof gives notice of the approach of guests,[12] but a shrieking magpie meeting or accompanying a traveller denotes death.

[11. Likewise in Bavaria. 12. Also believed by most Slav nations.]

The cuckoo is an oracle to be consulted in manifold contingencies. This bird plays a great part in Eoumenian poetry, and is frequently supposed to be the spirit of an unfortunate lover.

It is never permissible to kill a spider, as that would entail misfortune.

A toad taking up its residence in a cow-byre is assuredly in the service of a witch, and has been sent there to purloin the milk. It should therefore be stoned to death; but the same liberty must not be taken with the equally pernicious weasel, and if these animals be found to inhabit a barn or stable, the peasant must endeavour to render them harmless by diverting their thoughts into a safer channel. To this end a tiny threshing-flail must be prepared for the male weasel, and a distaff for his female partner, and laid at a place the animals are known to frequent.

The skull of a horse placed over the gate of the courtyard,[13] or the bones of fallen animals, buried under the doorstep, are preservatives against ghosts.

[13. The original signification of this seems to have gone astray, but was probably based on former worship of the horse, long regarded as a sacred animal by Indians, Parsees, Arabs, and Germans.]

The place where a horse has rolled on the ground is unwholesome, and the man who steps upon it will be speedily attacked by eruptions, boils, or other skin diseases.

Black fowls are always viewed with suspicion, as possibly standing in the service of a witch, and the Brahmaputra fowl is curiously enough considered to be the offspring of the devil with a Jewish girl.

If a cow has gone astray it will assuredly be eaten by the wolf, unless the owner remembers to stick a pair of scissors in the centre rafter of the dwelling-room.

As a matter of course, such places as churchyards, gallow-trees, and cross-roads are to be avoided, but even the left bank of a river may under circumstances become equally dangerous.

A whirlwind always denotes that the devil is dancing with a witch, and whoever approaches too near to this dangerous circle may be carried off bodily, or at the very least will lose his head-covering.

But the Roumenian does not always endeavour to keep the evil one at arm's length; sometimes, on the contrary, he invokes the devil's assistance, and enters into a regular compact with him.

Supposing, for instance, that he wishes to ensure a flock, garden or field against thieves, wild beasts, or bad weather, the matter is very simple. He has only to repair to a][cross-road, at the junction of which he takes up his stand, in the centre of a circle he has traced on the ground. Here, after depositing a copper coin as payment, he summons the demon with the following words :--

'Satan, I give thee over my flock (garden or field) to keep till (such and such a term), that thou mayest defend and protect it for me, and be my servant till this time has expired'

He must, however, be careful to keep within the circle he has traced, until the devil, who may very likely have chosen to appear in the shape of a goat, crow, toad, or serpent, has completely disappeared, otherwise the unfortunate wretch is irretrievably lost. He is equally sure to lose his soul if he die before the time of the contract has elapsed.

An apothecary of this town (Hermanstadt) told me that he was frequently applied to for a magic potion called *spiridusch,* which is said to have the property of disclosing hidden treasures to its lucky possessor. Only a few weeks ago he received the following letter, published in one of the local papers, and which I have here translated as literally as possible.

Worthy Sir,—I wish to ask you of something I have been told by others—that *is,* that you have got for sale a thing they call *spiridusch,* but which, to speak more plainly, is the devil himself. And if this be true, I beg you to tell me if it be really true, and how much it costs; for my poverty is so great and has brought me so far that I must ask the devil to help me. Those who told me this were weak, silly fellows, and were afraid, but I have no fear and have seen many things in my life before; therefore I beg you to write me this, and to take the greeting of an unknown man.—N. N.

Here, as elsewhere, thirteen is an ominous number.

It is unfortunate to meet an old woman or a Roumenian Pope; the meeting of a Protestant or Catholic clergyman is indifferent, and brings neither good nor evil.

It is bad luck if your path be traversed by a bare, but a fox or wolf crossing your road is a good omen.

Likewise, it is lucky to meet a woman with a jug full of water, while an empty jug is unlucky; therefore, the Roumenian maiden who meets you on the way back from the well will, smiling, display her brimming pitcher as she passes, with a pleased consciousness of bringing good luck; while the girl whose pitcher is empty will slink past shamefacedly, as though she had a crime to conceal.

Every orthodox Roumenian woman is careful to do homage to the water-spirit, the *wodna zena or zona,*

which resides in each spring, by spilling a few drops on the ground, after she has emptied her jug. She will never venture to draw the water against the current, for that would strike the spirit home and provoke her anger.

The Roumenian in general avoids the neighbourhood of deep pools of water, especially whirlpools, for here resides the dreadful *balaur,* or the *wodna muz,* the cruel waterman who lies in wait for human victims.

Each forest has likewise its own particular spirit, its *mama padura,[14]* or forest mother. This fairy is in general supposed to be good-natured, especially towards children who have lost their way in the wood. Less to be trusted is *Panusch* (surely a corruption of the Greek god Pan?), who haunts the forest glades and lies in wait for helpless maidens.

Eavaging diseases, like the pest, cholera, &c., are attributed to a spirit called the *dschuma,* to whom is sometimes given the shape of a fierce virgin, sometimes that of a toothless old hag. This spectre can only be driven away if a red shirt, which must be spun, woven, and sewed all in one night by seven old women, is hung out at the entrance of the afflicted village.[15]

[14. So in India the Matris, also known amongst the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Mexicans. A corresponding spirit is likewise found in the Scandinavian and Lithuanian mythologies; in the latter under the name of *medziajna.]*
[15. Also practised in Poland.]

The body of a drowned man can only be found again by sticking a lighted candle into a hollowed-out loaf of bread and setting it afloat at night on the river or lake. There where the light comes to a standstill will the corpse be found. Until this has been done the water will continue to rise and the rain to fall.

At the birth of a child each one present takes a stone, and throws it behind him, saying,' This into the jaws of the Strigoi,' which custom would also seem to suggest Saturn and the swaddled-up stones. As long as the child is unbaptised, it must be carefully watched over, for fear of being changed or otherwise harmed by a witch. A piece of iron or a broom laid under its pillow will keep evil charms away.

Even the Roumenian's wedding day is darkened by the shade of superstition. He can never be quite sure of his affection for his bride being a natural, spontaneous feeling, since it may or will have been caused by the evil influence of a witch. Also at church, when the priest offers the blest bread to himself and his new-made wife, he will tremblingly compare the relative sizes of the two pieces, for whoever chances to get the smaller one must inevitably be the first to die.

But nowhere does the inherent superstition of the Roumenian peasant find stronger expression than in his mourning and funeral ceremonies, which are based upon a totally original conception of death.

Among the various omens of approaching death are the ungrounded barking of a dog or the crowing of a black hen. The influence of the latter may, however, be annulled and the catastrophe averted if the bird be put in a sack and carried thrice round the house.

Roots dug up from the churchyard on Good Friday are to be given to people in danger of death. If, however, this and other remedies fail to save the doomed man, then he must have a burning candle put into his hand; for it is considered to be the greatest of all misfortunes if a man die without a candle—a favour the Roumenian durst not refuse to his most deadly enemy.

The corpse must be washed immediately after death, and the dirt, if necessary, scraped off with knives, because the dead man is more likely to find favour with God if he appear before Him in a clean state. Then he is attired in his best clothes, in doing which great care must be taken not to tie anything in a knot, for that would disturb his rest; likewise, he must not be allowed to carry away any particle of iron

Tuna company, 2 workers charged in death of worker in oven

CBS News, and The Associated Press firstcoastnews.com

635658154725857153-bubm

Prosecutors say Bumble Bee Foods and two employees have been charged with violating safety regulations in the death of a worker who was cooked in an industrial oven with tons of tuna.(Photo: CBS Los Angeles)

LOS ANGELES (CBS NEWS) -- Bumble Bee Foods and two managers were charged by Los Angeles prosecutors Monday with violating safety regulations in the death of a worker who was cooked in an industrial oven with tons of tuna.

Jose Melena was performing maintenance in a 35-foot-long oven at the company's Santa Fe Springs plant before dawn Oct. 11, 2012, when a co-worker, who mistakenly believed Melena was in the bathroom, filled the pressure cooker with 12,000 pounds of canned tuna and it was turned on.

When a supervisor noticed Melena, 62, was missing, an announcement was made on the intercom and employees searched for him in the facility and parking lot, according to a report by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health. His body was found two hours later after the pressure cooker, which reached a temperature of 270 degrees, was turned off and opened.

The body was severely burned, reports CBS Los Angeles. The oven is used to sterilize cans of tuna, the station says.

The company, its plant Operations Director, Angel Rodriguez, and former safety manager Saul Florez were each charged with three counts of violating Occupational Safety & Health Administration rules that caused a death.

The charges specify that the company and the two men willfully violated rules that require implementing a safety plan, rules for workers entering confined spaces, and a procedure to keep machinery or equipment turned off if someone's working on it.

Rodriguez, 63, of Riverside, and Florez, 42, of Whittier, could face up to three years in prison and fines up to $250,000 if convicted of all charges, prosecutors said. Bumble Bee Foods faces a maximum fine of $1.5 million.

The state's occupational safety agency previously cited the San Diego-based company for failing to properly assess the danger to employees working in large ovens and fined it $74,000.

Bumble Bee, which has appealed the penalties, said the company improved its safety program after the tragedy.

"We remain devastated by the loss of our colleague Jose Melena in the tragic accident," the company said in a statement. "We disagree with and are disappointed by the charges filed by the Los Angeles district attorney's office."

Florez refused to comment, and messages seeking comment from Rodriguez were not immediately returned.

District Attorney Jackie Lacey said prosecutors and investigators from her office have been going to major industrial accidents to ensure illegal and deadly work practices are prosecuted.

Prosecutions of workplace violations are uncommon - even in fatalities.

The state cited nearly 15,000 workplace violations in 2013, according to the state agency. Of 189 fatality investigations opened that year, the state only referred 29 to prosecutors.

District attorneys only filed charges in 14 cases that year, though some of those charges could have been for cases referred in earlier years. They could have brought charges subsequently for cases filed in 2013.

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UFO Alien ‘High Priest’ Hidden In Famous ‘Mona Lisa’ By Leonardo Da Vinci, New Video Claims

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Odd News Posted: May 5, 2015

UFO Alien ‘High Priest’ Hidden In Famous ‘Mona Lisa’ By Leonardo Da Vinci, New Video Claims

A UFO alien — and not just an alien but an alien “high priest” — was hidden by legendary artist Leonardo Da Vinci deep within his iconic masterpiece, the *Mona Lisa*, a new video by the *Paranormal Crucible* blog site claims.

You can watch the bizarre video above to see of you can detect the alien image deep within the world-famous painting.

“Many theologians believe that Leonardo Da Vinci deliberately concealed secret codes and subliminal messages in most of his work,” wrote the blogger on the video’s YouTube page.

> “If this is true then it’s reasonable to assume that the Mona Lisa was in fact painted in order to conceal important historical and religious facts possibly regarding the extraterrestrial presence and its surreptitious involvement within the Roman Catholic Church.”

Reasonable indeed! Though as one commenter on the YouTube version of the video asked, “Alien high priest? What religion would be an alien?”

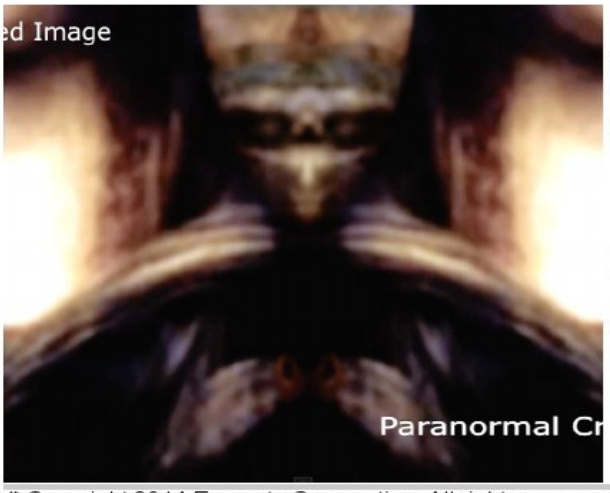
Good question. For that matter, why would Da Vinci conceal this strange alleged image of the alien “Grey” high priest inside his already-enigmatic *Mona Lisa*, a painting that has confounded art historians practically since the great Florentine artist and original renaissance man finished it, most likely sometime in the year 1506?

But Scott C. Waring of the popular *UFO Sightings Daily* site offers an answer to the riddle of Da Vinci’s motives behind hiding alien images in his most famous painting. Simple — Da Vinci was himself an alien. Or at least, on one side of the family.

> “The likelihood of Leonardo Da Vinci being an alien or half-breed is very high. He shows all the signs. He had very high intellectual ability, extraordinary creative range, and used them to accomplish quite a bit.”

“Leonardo is somebody who is able to operate across all these various fields, which is very unusual. Geniuses rarely are great in all areas like Leonardo. He was known for hiding secret messages and codes in his artwork, so this new discovery gives us the key we have been missing about him… his extraordinary abilities came from or were those of aliens,” Waring further explained on his blog.

Here is a close view of the “alien high priest” in the *Mona Lisa*, captured by Waring from the above video.



Last year UFO hunters found an image of an alien spacecraft in a painting depicting the home Vlad Tepes, the historical Dracula, from around the same time period.

In fact, this new, alleged discovery in the *Mona Lisa* is not the first time that UFO hunters have found an alien image in one of Da Vinci's masterworks. Other researchers have also claimed to find an alien depicted in Da Vinci's 1498 church fresco, *The Last Supper*.

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Check out every UFO sighting since 1933

April 09, 2015 news.com.au

Last updated: **April 10, 2015**

Interactive map shows every recorded UFO sighting since 1933

- From: news.com.au
- 23 hours ago April 09, 2015 5:08PM

What are people really seeing?

HUMANKIND'S quest for intelligent extra terrestrial life has many of us gazing skyward trying to find any traces of their activity.

UFO sighting over the past century have become almost as common as they are mystifying and intriguing. Just last month, the internet was miffed when a clip of a high speed UFO whizzing over California went viral.

UFO sighting capture popular imagination like nothing else and can lead to the craziest conspiracy theories, including Larry Holcombe's idea that aliens played a part in the death of JFK.

Regardless of the questionable sanity that can be attached to many claims of UFO sightings, people keep seeing something. Fortunately for all the conspiracy buffs and alien hunters, someone has created an interactive map which shows all recorded UFO sightings since 1933.

In sequence, the world map shows the location of each sighting with a rather fitting flashing dot. The interactive tool was made by MBA candidate Christian Pearson using data from the National UFO Reporting Centre.

"It was a fun way of conveying the point that beautiful data visualisation can provide deep insights," Mr Pearson told City Lab.

Unsurprisingly, sightings became more frequent in the 1960s as aviation technology began to take off. This also coincides with an increase in CIA activity

such as the U-2 program and ariel efforts of Cold War surveillance — something the CIA recently admitted was responsible for UFO sightings at the time.

When scrolling across Australia, it shows how nearly all the recorded UFO sightings have occurred near major coastal cities.

According to its creator, the map discredits the commonly held assumption that UFO sightings tend to happen in isolated, rural areas. “The map clearly shows large clusters of reporting in urban areas,” Mr Pearson said.

Whether you’re a believer or not, you can do your own investigation below.

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UFOs Show Up During War, Says Ex-Air Force Intelligence Officer

huffingtonpost.com

Posted: 04/19/2015 9:48 am EDT Updated: 04/19/2015 4:59 pm EDT

UFOSOCCUPANTSVIETNAM

This is a recreation of a reported encounter between UFOs and an American patrol boat during the Vietnam War in 1968, in which occupants of the unknown craft were observed. The recreation is from the second-season premiere episode of History channel's "Hangar 1: The UFO Files." | A&E Networks

The public rarely hears about interactions between military personnel and unexplained aircraft -- especially during wartime.

As time goes on, however, UFO stories stuck behind red tape begin to see the light of day. The Vietnam War saw its share of UFO activity in the 1960s.

One close encounter, in 1968, involved the crew of an American patrol boat that reported two glowing circular craft following them in the demilitarized zone that separated North and South Vietnam (see depiction below).

ufosptboat

The crew aboard a second patrol boat later reported seeing the UFOs over the first boat and a flash of light, followed by an explosion that completely destroyed the boat. These Vietnam reports included close observation of the unknown aerial craft which appeared to house pilots (see recreation image at the top of this story).

Wartime UFO stories are recreated in the premiere

episode of the second season of History's "Hangar 1: The UFO Files." The accounts are drawn from tens of thousands of UFO cases in the archives of the Mutual UFO Network, the world's largest UFO investigation group.

"The military was interested in [UFOs] because they had capabilities far above anything that we had, and they wanted to find out what the technology was and, frankly, who they belonged to," according to former Air Force intelligence officer, Capt. George Filer.

While in Vietnam, Filer -- who had a top secret clearance -- gave daily briefings to Gen. George S. Brown, deputy commander for air operations in Vietnam.

"Frequently, the Vietcong or North Vietnamese would be attacking an outpost and I would explain that, and we would have ground-air support, particularly at night where we'd go in there with these gun ships, and I would give briefings on all of that," Filer told The Huffington Post. "Some of the time, there would be unidentified craft over the DMZ."

Filer described a typical report that he'd receive and which he included in his briefings to Brown:

"You'd have an aircraft flying along, doing around 500 knots and a UFO comes alongside and does some barrel rolls around the aircraft and then flies off at three times the speed of one of the fastest jets we have in the Air Force. So, obviously, it has a technology far in advance of anything we have.

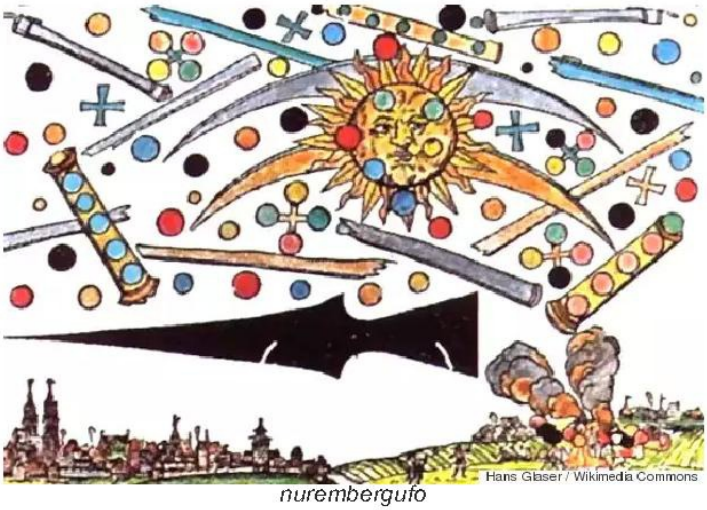
"I would be told this unofficially. People tell you a lot of things that they don't put in writing or sign their name to. There was always this part of UFOs that, if you got too interested, it could mess up your career. And this is true today even with commercial pilots. I've also heard from people serving in Afghanistan saying they've seen UFOs, and the Iranian news carries UFO reports pretty regularly."

During a 1973 press conference, five years after the patrol boat UFO encounters, Brown -- as USAF chief of staff -- was asked about the Air Force's position on UFOs:

> **I don't know whether this story has ever been told or not. They weren't called UFOs. The were called enemy helicopters. And they were only seen at night and they were only seen in certain places. They were seen up around the DMZ in the early summer of '68. And this resulted in quite a little battle.**
>
> **And in the course of this, an Australian destroyer took a hit and we never found any enemy, we only found ourselves when this had all been sorted out. And this caused some shooting there, and there was no enemy at all involved, but we always reacted.**
>
> **Always after dark, the same thing happened up at Pleiku at the Highlands in '69.**

Many stories about battling UFOs have emerged throughout history.

One early account of UFO warfare was supposedly seen by the citizens of Nuremberg, Germany, in 1561. On a morning in April, the Nuremberg Gazette reportedly described an aerial battle between large "cylindrical shapes from which emerged black, red, orange and blue-white spheres that darted about... All these elements started to fight one against the other." An artist, Hans Glaser, created a woodcut of the spectacle, seen below:



nurembergufo

During World War II, also in Germany, Allied aircraft pilots often reported mysterious glowing, fast-moving, circular lights, which were dubbed Foo Fighters. The New York Times reported it as "military slang for flying saucers."

Filer -- who documents his sightings and other UFO news at the National UFO Center site -- was one of several military eyewitnesses to something extraordinary in the sky over England. It was 1962, and he was the navigator on a refueling tanker.

"We were out over the North Sea when London Control called and asked if we would be willing to intercept an unidentified that was over Oxford and the Stonehenge area. We had just finished up our refueling mission, so we said sure, and they cleared all the traffic around us and gave us top priority as we descended towards the UFO. All they really had was a very large radar return, but it was much bigger than a normal aircraft."

georgefiler

Filer (pictured at right) recalled how his radar scope indicated the UFO was as big as the huge Firth of Forth Bridge in Scotland that he and his crew often used as a regular navigation point.

"The 'thing' was at 1,000 feet and we were descending from 32,000 feet. We picked up this huge radar return while we were still about 30 miles out. It was dark out and when we got much closer to the object, we saw lights around it, outlining the shape of a cylinder, like a cruise ship. It then just quickly rose and went up into space.

"We were pretty sure we'd just seen a UFO."

Filer also told HuffPost that he has heard from air traffic controllers who claimed they were told to "always divert aircraft away from UFOs and deny that it existed. I think they want this whole situation to go away, and I think [the policy] is coming from the National Security Council -- they're at the highest level. It sounds funny, but presidents don't always know what their National Security Council is doing."

Upcoming episodes of "Hangar 1" over the next 12 weeks will focus on folks who've held military positions and are willing to come forward and tell their stories.

One of those (hold onto your hats) is a man who claims he was in the Marines (wait for it...) and that he was stationed on Mars for several years. That's right: the red planet Mars. He'll describe being part of an off-planet military force. Let's not pass judgment...yet.

There's also the story of a retired Army sergeant who says he was assigned to UFO crash and retrieval cases where both ships *and* ET bodies were supposedly recovered -- some dead, some alive.

In case you were wondering, Hangar 1 is an actual hangar where MUFON, for a long time, stored all of its archives. At one point, all of the organization's files were housed in this airport hangar somewhere in the middle of the country. The images of Hangar 1 that appear in the series are of the real hangar.

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University of Wisconsin Students Say They Broke Record for Biggest Cereal Treat

nbcnews.com

A group of students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison said Sunday that they cooked up a Rice Krispies treat that shatters the Guinness World Record for the largest cereal treat by half a ton.

The group, called Project Freshman 15,000 — a reference to the notorious "freshman 15" — set out on a goal to construct a 7½-ton version of the classic gooey cereal treat while raising money for charity along the way, according to a statement from the school.

The student volunteers, led by the visionary of the project, Joe Tarnowski, started melting the butter and marshmallows Thursday morning and finished up Sunday with a Rice Krispies treat that was 11,327 pounds. While the finished product was a tad short of their goal, the group is still confident they beat the world record, which was set in 2010 with a brick of Rice Krispies weighing 10,314 pounds, according to Guinness World Records.

"We did it! At 10:30 PR15k broke the world record," the group proclaimed on Twitter. "Now, lets destroy it!!"

The "destroy" phase of the operation is when the money-raising happens. Project Freshman 15,000 is selling pieces of the history-making dessert and will donate the profits to Wisconsin charities, including Camp Kasem, which supports children with a parent who has been diagnosed with cancer, according to the school.

The one downside to this sweet deal is that no one thought to bring a giant glass of milk.

Dennis Punzel / Wisconsin State Journal

First published April 12th 2015, 5:07 pm

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EXCLUSIVE: Reagan asked Soviets to help defeat alien invasion

express.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE: Reagan asked Soviets to help defeat alien invasion

Ronald Reagan believed aliens would conquer Earth and stunned Mikhail Gorbachev by asking for Soviet help to defeat the invasion, a new book reveals.

By Mark Branagan
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Sun, Apr 19, 2015 | UPDATED: 02:59, Sun, Apr 19, 2015

GETTY

The US president went off script during a summit to warn of the threat, to the horror of aides and the bemusement of the Soviet leader.

The former B-movie actor became an avid science fiction fan while working in Hollywood. He confessed his favourite story was "the invasion from outer space that prompts earthlings to put aside nationalistic quarrels and band together to fight the alien invader". Reagan even arranged a private screening of Stephen Spielberg's Close Encounters Of The Third Kind at the White House in 1982 for top judges, astronauts and other VIPs. The book reveals he turned around as the credits rolled and told his audience: "There are a number of people in this room who know that everything on that screen is true."

Reagan was to go even further when he met Gorbachev for the first time at a summit in Geneva in 1985, according to the book, How UFOs Conquered The World, to be published next month.

Author Dr David Clarke said: "He surprised Gorby by saying he was sure the two superpowers would co-operate if Earth was threatened by alien invasion. Taken aback, the Soviet leader politely changed the subject."

Deputy national security adviser Colin Powell was horrified, particularly when Reagan repeated the story to Maryland high school students after his return to the US. Powell went through the president's speeches deleting "interplanetary references" until his final months in office. When Reagan continued to harp on about the threat of alien invasion, Powell would roll his eyes and tell staff: "Here come the Little Green Men again."

The book suggests Reagan was secretly appalled by nuclear weapons and his approach to Gorbachev may have been inspired by the 1951 movie The Day The Earth Stood Still. In the

film, an interplanetary peace-keeping force lands on Earth using a giant robot to force the warring nuclear powers to put aside their differences. Dr Clarke said: "For a generation that lived in fear of the bomb, this message of salvation from the stars, delivered by technological angels, was a welcome alternative to the Cold War stalemate.

"Ronald Reagan was a born-again Christian and saw no contradiction between his faith and a belief in aliens."

The Sheffield-based X-files expert believes the president may also have been convinced he was speaking for the US public after an opinion poll showed 57 per cent of Americans believed UFOs were real.

Dr Clarke added: "Reagan's comments to Gorbachev at the 1985 summit imply he might have believed the real threat came not from behind the Iron Curtain but from hostile extra-terrestrials."

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U.S. Confederate kin keep controversial flag aloft in Brazil

reuters.com

Lifestyle | Thu Apr 30, 2015 2:42pm EDT

By Asher Levine

Descendants of American Southerners wearing Confederate-era dress and uniforms pose during a party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War in Santa Barbara D'Oeste, Brazil, April 26, 2015.

Reuters/Paulo Whitaker

Descendants of American Southerners wearing Confederate-era uniforms pose for a photograph during a party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War in Santa Barbara D'Oeste, Brazil, April 26, 2015. Reuters/Paulo Whitaker

Noemia Pyles, a descendant of American Southerners walks in a cemetery where American Southern immigrants are buried in tombs adorned with the confederate flag, during a party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War in Santa Barbara D'Oeste,...

SANTA BARBARA D'OESTE, Brazil (Reuters) - The U.S. Civil War ended 150 years ago, but once a year, deep in the sugar cane fields of southern Brazil, the Confederate battle flag rises again.

It would be an unlikely scene in the United States, where many consider the flag a symbol of racism, slavery and segregation. Public outcry over those connotations has led to the steady withdrawal of the flag from public display in recent years.

In Brazil, though, the banner is an integral part of the Festa Confederada, an annual gathering to celebrate the history of the roughly 10,000 Confederates who migrated to this South American country after their side lost the war.

Enticed by offers of cheap land from Emperor Dom Pedro II, who hoped to gain expertise in cotton farming, the so-called Confederados developed a small community in the countryside of São Paulo state in a place now called Americana.

Most married into the broader population, but many families, some of whom are also descended from African slaves, remain loyal to their Southern identity.

On Sunday, roughly 2,500 people converged on the Confederado cemetery in the nearby rural town of Santa Barbara D'Oeste to celebrate that heritage with loud country music, down-home cooking and hundreds of red-and-blue Confederate battle flags.

"I am proud of the Confederate flag because it is a piece of history that I am directly connected to," said 34-year-old João Leopoldo Padovese, who came dressed in a gray Rebel uniform. As one of the festival's organizers, he said he was well aware of the controversy.

"Imagine if I were to show up dressed like this in the middle of New York," he said. "I would

get beaten! But not here. For us in Brazil, it has no political meaning at all."

Padovese's philosophy was shared by nearly every Brazilian interviewed wearing the flag. Many were unaware of its significance in U.S. society.

Meanwhile, a smattering of curious American visitors expressed surprise at the imagery.

"In the U.S. these symbols are representative of the things we don't want in the country," said Clinton Jenkins, a 39-year-old conservationist from Bristol, Tennessee. "But here it's all seemingly disconnected. Watching a girl sing 'Amazing Grace' on top of a giant Confederate flag is a hell of a contrast."

The U.S. Supreme Court is set to rule this year on whether Texas discriminated against the Sons of Confederate Veterans by refusing to issue specialty license plates featuring the organization's emblem, which includes a Confederate flag.

Daniel Coleman, a member of that group, traveled to the event in Brazil from his home near Atlanta.

"In the States, it's kind of like people expect you to hang your head for being a Southerner," he said.

Not so in Santa Barbara D'Oeste, as families in a range of skin tones skipped across the Confederate flag-painted dance floor to the sound of fiddles and banjos.

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Russian volunteer for first ever head transplant operation speaks out

02:49 EST, 8 April 2015 |
02:49 EST, 8 April 2015
dailymail.co.uk

Thursday, Apr 9th 2015 2AM

EXCLUSIVE: Revealed, the terminally ill man set to be first to undergo the world's first full HEAD transplant pioneered by doctor branded 'nuts'

- **Valery Spiridonov says he is ready to put his trust in Dr Sergio Canavero**
- **30-year-old computer scientist was born with Werdnig-Hoffman disease**
- **Genetic muscle-wasting disorder has left him seriously disabled since birth**
- **New body of city of Vladimir native would be taken from braindead donor**
- **But 2016 target for operation is 'pure fantasy', say Dr Canavero's critics**

By Will Stewart In Moscow and Nick Fagge In London For Mailonline

A man with a fatal medical condition has spoken exclusively to MailOnline about how he is set to become the first person to undergo a head transplant and hopes it could be as soon as next year.

Valery Spiridonov says he is ready to put his trust in controversial surgeon Dr Sergio Canavero who claims he can cut off his head and attach it to a healthy body.

Mr Spiridonov, 30, a computer scientist from Russia, said: 'My decision is final and I do not plan to change my mind.'

As a lifelong sufferer of the rare genetic Werdnig-Hoffman muscle wasting disease, he says he wants the chance of a new body before he dies.

Hope: Valery Spiridonov wants to be the first person to undergo a head transplant so he can have a shot at having a healthy body having suffered from the Werdnig-Hoffman muscle wasting disease

Dnger: Mr Spiridonov said: 'I don't do this because I don't have a life but I think that science is developed by those who are ready to take risks and devote themselves to it'

Controversial: Surgeon Dr Sergio Canavero claims all the necessary techniques already exist to transplant a head onto a donor body, despite widespread scepticism

'Am I afraid? Yes, of course I am. But it is not just very scary, but also very interesting,' said Mr Spiridonov from his home in Vladimir, a city 120 miles east of Moscow.

'But you have to understand that I don't really have many choices', he said. 'If I don't try this chance my fate will be very sad. With every year my state is getting worse.'

Dr Canavero and Mr Spiridonov have talked via Skype though they have not met yet and the doctor has

not reviewed his medical records.

The Italian told CNN he has received many email and letters from people seeking the procedure but he insists the first patients will be people suffering from a muscle wasting disease.

Dr Canavero has named the procedure HEAVEN, which is an acronym for head anastomosis venture. Anastomosis involves the surgical connecting of two parts.

He insists all the necessary techniques already exist to transplant a head onto a donor body.

The first monkey head transplant was performed 45 years ago and a basic operation on a mouse was carried out in China recently.

But critics say Dr Canavero's plans are 'pure fantasy'. The Italian has been compared to the fictional gothic-horror character Dr Frankenstein.

And Arthur Caplan, the director of medical ethics at New York University's Langone Medical Centre, has described Dr Canavero as 'nuts'.

Dr Hunt Batjer, president elect of the American Association for Neurological Surgeons, told CNN: 'I would not wish this on anyone. I would not allow anyone to do it to me as there are a lot of things worse than death.'

The cost of the 36-hour operation, which could only be performed in the one of the world's most advanced operating theatres, has been estimated at £7.5million.

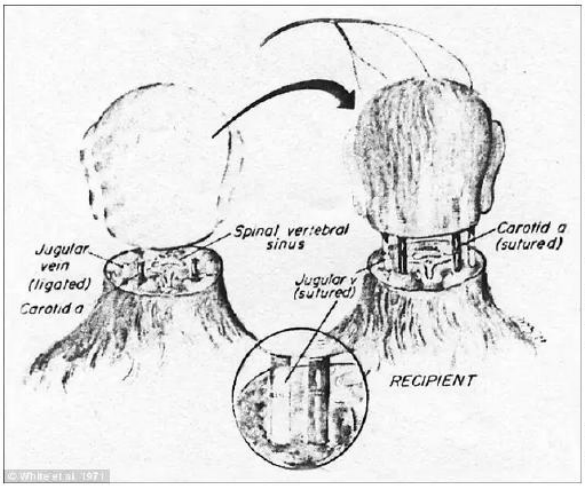
The new body would come from a transplant donor who is brain dead but otherwise healthy.

History: In 1970 Dr Robert White transplanted the head of one monkey onto the body of another, as shown in this diagram. If Mr Spiridonov's head were to be successfully transplanted his jugular vein and spinal cords would have to be similarly fused with those of his new donor body

Both donor and patient would have their head severed from their spinal cord at the same time, using an ultra-sharp blade to give a clean cut.

The patient's head would then be placed onto the donor's body and attached using what Canavero calls his 'magic ingredient' - a glue-like substance called polyethylene glycol - to fuse the two ends of the spinal cord together.

The muscles and blood supply would be stitched up, before the patient is put into a coma for four weeks to stop them from moving while the head and body heal together.



When they wake the patient should be able to move, feel their face and even speak with the same voice. Powerful immunosuppressant drugs should stop the new body from being rejected.

Critics say Dr Canavero has simplified the difficulties involved in reattaching a spinal cord.

The Italian doctor has also so far failed to secure funding for the staff of 150 doctors and nurses he believes are required to complete the procedure.

I would not wish this on anyone. I would not allow anyone to do it to me as there are a lot of things worse than death.
Dr Hunt Batjer

However, the Italian is confident he can successfully transplant a head on to another body.

And if successful, his pioneering procedure could give new hope to thousands of paralysed and disabled people.

Mr Spiridonov was diagnosed with the rare muscle-wasting condition, Werdnig-Hoffman disease, at the age of one. Tragically the disease progresses every day.

He told MailOnline: 'I can hardly control my body now. I need help every day, every minute. I am now 30 years old, although people rarely live to more than 20 with this disease.'

He continued: 'My muscles stopped any development in childhood. Because of this, they do not grow and the skeleton gets deformed. The back muscles cannot support the skeleton.'

With his condition worsening each day, Mr Spiridonov is desperate for the technique to work. He told MailOnline: 'If you want something to be done, you need to participate in it.

'I do understand the risks of such surgery. They are multiple. We can't even imagine what exactly can go wrong. I'm afraid that I wouldn't live long enough to see it happen to someone else.'

He said his family fully support his decision to be the first human to undergo such surgery.

Mr Spiridonov added: 'What's more, there's already a lot of effort invested in this idea and that's why it's too late to back out.

'I came up with this idea quite some time ago. I read many scientific articles on this topic.

Planning: Mr Spiridonov has been talking through and planning the operation with Dr Canavero for two years

Mr Spiridonov says 'If you want something to be done, you need to participate in it'

'The idea to transplant not only organs but the head has been studied for a long time even by Russian specialists. But an actual transplantation of the human head was never conducted.'

Mr Spiridonov contacted the controversial doctor, who is based at the University of Turin in Italy, after reading about his ambitious medical claims.

He said: 'I contacted Professor Canavero two years ago after reading about his works. I offered myself to him to make this operation possible. We have never met and we just communicate via emails.

'For the last two years we've been talking this idea through and planning the operation.

'He's a very experienced neurosurgeon and has conducted many serious operations. Of course he has never done anything like this and we have to think carefully through all the possible risks.'

The Russian has compared the pioneering procedure to the space race of the post-war years.

He said: 'In the end it is like with astronauts. Before the first man we sent into space, 300 different scenarios of something going wrong were thought through but when he actually did it, it was the 301st scenario that happened.'

Mr Spiridonov denies his pledge to be a guinea pig is a stunt, and insists he goes into it with his eyes open.

'If I want this kind of surgery to happen, I shouldn't put the responsibility onto someone else but should try it on myself.

'My family fully supports me. They also understand all the risks and even if they think that it's too dangerous, they still support me in my decision.'

Despite his severe disabilities Mr Spiridonov has lead a full life, graduating from university with a degree in computer science.

SPINE 'GLUED' BACK TOGETHER

It is already 40 years since the first monkey head transplant and since then an operation on a mouse has been carried out in China.

But Dr Canavero claims all the necessary techniques already exist to carry out a full human head transplant.

He believes he just needs to put the relevant techniques together to carry out the first successful operation.

The new body would come from a normal transplant donor, who is declared brain dead.

Both the donor and the patient would have their head severed from their spinal cord at the same time, using an ultra-sharp blade to give a clean cut.

The patient's head would then be moved on to the donor's body and attached using a 'glue' called polyethylene glycol to fuse the two ends of the spinal cord together.

The muscles and blood supply would be stitched up, before the patient is put into a coma for four weeks to stop them moving while the head and body heal together.

During that time the patient would be given small electric shocks to stimulate their spinal cord and strengthen the connections between their head and new body.

As the patient is brought out of their medically-induced coma, it is hoped they would be able to move, feel their face, and even speak with the same voice.

Powerful immunosuppressant drugs would be prescribed to stop the new body from being rejected.

In addition, the patient would require intensive psychological support.

'I lost my father in a car crash 16 years ago,' he told MailOnline. 'He was a military man, a lieutenant colonel. So I had to start supporting the family at an early age.

'My mother is a child psychologist in a rehabilitation centre for children who got into difficult situations.

'I graduated from the Faculty of Information Technologies of Vladimir State University. I have a very active social life and I'm the head of a committee that deals with social policies for families and youth.'

He added: 'I don't do this because I don't have a life but I think that science is developed by those who are ready to take risks and devote themselves to it.'

Mr Spiridonov has never discussed the possibility of failure with Dr Canavero.

He told MailOnline: 'It was about me just offering myself as ready to undergo it. Of course, the professor considers the chances to succeed are quite high otherwise he wouldn't try it.'

He says there is no ethical difference between transplanting a head on to a healthy body and replacing a damaged organ with a healthy one, which is now considered routine.

Donors could include victims of road traffic accidents or even prisoners sentenced to death, he says.

He told MailOnline: 'I consider it to be as ethical as the transplant of the heart or kidneys. At some point of time this was considered to be unethical as well.

'There was much talk about where the human soul is located, and if it's ethical to do the heart transplants, but now doctors do it and save people's lives.

'I think it's the normal way of technology to evolve. It would be strange to stop at this point when the neurosurgery is ready to take the next step.

'The bodies used for transplant could be those of people whose brain was damaged, let's say in a car crash or motorbike accident, or who are sentenced to capital punishment.

'But, of course, in future humanity should learn how to grow healthy bodies for the transplants so there will be no shortage of organs and bodies.'

Mr Spiridonov says he understands that the Italian surgeon can only go ahead when he is satisfied that medical science is sufficiently advanced.

But the Russian he believes this moment is very close, possibly next year, 2016.

He told MailOnline: 'We haven't agreed on a particular date of the surgery with Dr Canavero,

Dr Canavero said his new body swap technique could help paralysed people such as Christopher Reeve

'It's an ongoing process and a lot depends on the success of the studies that are underway now.

'There will be a conference of neurosurgery in Annapolis in the US this summer. The professor will be reporting on his studies there.

'He would like me to be present. I would like to attend if I can find the means to fly there. We will see what the next step is after that.'

Matter-of-factly, he adds: 'For now we are thinking about transplanting my head in 2016.'

The Russian even jokes about what might happen if the surgery goes wrong.

He told MailOnline: 'Maybe I would try to move my leg but instead my body will produce a litre of adrenaline. But I am willing to take the risks and try.'

In 1970 Dr Robert White transplanted the head of one monkey onto the body of another at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

The monkey died after eight days because the body rejected the head. The monkey was unable to breathe on its own. The animal could not move because the spinal cord were not connected.

Dr Batjer says White's research does not provide evidence that a human head transplant can work.

He told CNN: 'It's a 45-year-old reference in a primate and there is no evidence that the spinal cord was anastomosed functionally.'

Dr Sergio Canavero could not be reached for comment.

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Monday 13 April 2015

Greek island celebrates Easter with annual 'rocket war'

It's probably one of the stranger Easter celebrations, but Chios's annual tradition of firing rockets into the sky attracts visitors from around the world

In the **Greek village** of Vrondados, on the island of Chios, the locals have an unusual way of **celebrating Easter** - letting off hundreds of rockets into the sky in a mock war.

Rockets

The parishioners of the two village churches launch rockets at each other's church towers to celebrate the holiday in the Greek Orthodox calendar.

As rockets streak across the sky, some parishioners brave the church services inside, protected by a layer of chicken wire around the buildings.

Despite the potential danger, visitors from around the world come to witness the display.

"We heard about it with my friends and we just wanted to come here. This is our first time and we are definitely going to come again, for sure," said one Turkish tourist.

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7:37PM BST 10 Apr 2015 telegraph.co.uk

Saturday 11 April 2015 |

Warwick Castle cannonball show sets fire to historic boathouse

Huge fire engulfs boathouse of medieval castle after it is struck by a burning cannonball fired from its famed trebuchet

Hundreds of tourists have been evacuated from Warwick Castle after a burning cannonball fired from the world's largest working siege machine destroyed a medieval boathouse by fire.

Sparks from the cannonball which was fired from the wooden trebuchet ignited the roof of the ancient boathouse causing a blaze on Friday night.

More than 30 firefighters attended the scene after the fire broke out at 5.54pm.

Investigations are taking place at the Castle into the cause of the blaze.

Holidaymakers, many with young children enjoying the last day of the Easter break, were watching the final launch of the trebuchet when the thatched roof caught fire.

Witness Heather Taylor, 42, had travelled from Birmingham with her six-year-old son Ethan, to watch the cannonball launch.

She said: "The trebuchet launched the flaming cannonball but as it flew almost over the boathouse sparks could clearly be seen coming off it and the high winds must have sent them onto the roof of the boathouse.

"There was a lot of panic and people were scrambling up the bank because they had no idea if the fire would spread.

"The place was packed with lots of young children and families. We were all evacuated and it was quite scary.

"It was shocking how fast the fire took hold.

"The cannonball actually appeared to land behind the boat house but it was obviously too close.

"It's such a shame because we the boat house has only just been re-thatched and we watched a chap thatching it before the big show. It's a medieval building so it's a big loss."

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service sent three fire engines to tackle the blaze.

A spokesperson said: "We received a call at 5.47pm to a fire at the boathouse in the grounds of Warwick Castle.

"Three appliances were sent to the fire."

The Warwick Castle trebuchet

It is not believed anyone was injured in the fire and the castle was unaffected.

The Trebuchet Fireball Spectacular is one of the Castle's main attractions.

It was built in 2005, stands 60ft high, weighs 22 tonnes and has been fired at least 6,500 times.

The historic boathouse, which was destroyed in the blaze, dates back to 1896 when the 5th Earl, Frances Greville, had it built to house an electric boat which he powered by batteries charged from the electricity generated by the castle's mill.

A spokesperson for Warwick Castle said the trebuchet would continue firing shots but only dry ones rather than fireballs until the investigation into the blaze is completed.

She said: "At 5.45pm this afternoon, a small fire was reported in the Boat House on the river opposite Warwick Castle.

"The boathouse is located on an island that was not open to the public at the time, with no guests or staff in the area and no-one at risk.

"The fire brigade attended within 12 minutes and are on site, with the fire under control.

"The rest of the castle remains unaffected."

Wal-Mart: 'No Truth To The Rumors' Of Tunnels Being Built To Take Over Texas

talkingpointsmemo.com

Wal-Mart: 'No Truth To The Rumors' Of Tunnels Being Built To Take Over Texas

ByPublishedMay 4, 2015, 5:06 PM EDT

Wal-Mart issued a statement Monday to TPM dismissing "rumors" that tunnels were being built by the U.S. military beneath closed stores in an attempt to launch a takeover of Texas.

"There's no truth to the rumors," Wal-Mart spokesperson Lorenzo Lopez told TPM via email.

The tunnels are part of a series of conspiracy theories surrounding "Jade Helm 15," a military training operation set to take place later this year in seven Western states. The conspiracy theorists have said the operation may be part of a covert attempt to takeover Texas and other states.

In response to the theories, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) last week issued an order for the state guard to monitor the U.S. military — a decision he defended on Monday.

Theorists have suggested that five Wal-Mart retail locations were shuttered abruptly because of Jade Helm 15. They have suggested that the closed stores, one of which is located in Texas, will serve as "food distribution centers" and will be used to "house the headquarters of invading troops from China, here to disarm Americans one by one."

Another theory suggested that there was already a system of underground tunnels below the closed Wal-Marts.

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Walt Whitman at the strip club: The legendary poet on love, lust and "midnight orgies"

More John Marsh.
Sunday, Apr 12, 2015 12:00 PM PDT

salon.com

Walt Whitman at the strip club: The legendary poet on love, lust and "midnight orgies"

Whitman understood something that America often tries to suppress: "Sex is the root of it all"

John Marsh

Topics: Books, walt whitman, Poetry, Love, Sex, strip clubs, Innovation News, Life News

Enlarge

Walt Whitman (Credit: Wikimedia/LoloStock via Shutterstock/Salon)

Excerpted from "In Walt We Trust: How a Queer Socialist Poet Can Save America From Itself"

In the late 1850s, Walt Whitman wrote a series of poems celebrating what he called "manly love," the love men had for other men. Whitman included the poems in the 1860 edition of *Leaves of Grass* under the heading "Calamus," a plant with a suggestive, phallic-shaped flowering spike growing out of it. As I discuss in the next chapter, the exact nature of this manly love—essentially, whether it involved genitals or not—remains very much unsettled. In any case, Whitman wanted a series of poems that would counterbalance the "Calamus" ones. Whereas "Calamus" would celebrate the love of men for men, these new poems would celebrate the erotic love between men and women. The poems, Whitman imagined, would be "full of animal fire, tender, burning,—the tremulous ache, delicious, yet such torment. The swelling elate and vehement, that will not be denied." To assemble the series, which he eventually called "Children of Adam," Whitman gathered three poems from the 1855 and 1856 editions of *Leaves of Grass*, including the justly famous "I Sing the Body Electric" and the perennially controversial "A Woman Waits for Me," and wrote another dozen shorter poems.

Among these shorter lyrics is the eighth poem in the series, later given the title "Native Moments." By "native," Whitman means a couple of things: inborn or innate, but also simple, natural, without affectation—possibly even uncivilized. To put it simply, he is talking about moments of overwhelming sexual desire, which, he believes, are native (instinctual) to us and native (almost crude) in and of themselves. Either way, these moments cannot and should not be denied. Whitman writes:

Native moments! when you come upon me—Ah you are here now!
Give me now libidinous joys only!
Give me the drench of my passions! Give me life coarse and rank!
To-day, I go consort with nature's darlings—to-night too,
I am for those who believe in loose delights—I share the midnight orgies of young men,
I dance with the dancers, and drink with the drinkers,
The echoes ring with our indecent calls,
I take for my love some prostitute—I pick out some low person for my dearest friend,
He shall be lawless, rude, illiterate—he shall be one condemned by others for deeds done;
I will play a part no longer—Why should I exile myself from my companions?
O you shunned persons! I at least do not shun you,
I come forthwith in your midst—I will be your poet,
I will be more to you than to any of the rest.

In many of his poems, Whitman defiantly takes up for slaves, prostitutes, and assorted social outcasts. In this poem, he takes up "for those who believe in loose delights," for the young men who engage in "midnight orgies." Whitman vows to become the poet of these young men because he wants to include everyone—and everything—in his poetry, especially those whom others look down upon. In addition to including them, though, he also wants to rescue these young men and their rampant lust from the reproach of others. The young men are "nature's darlings," Whitman writes. Nature loves them and their passions as much as any other person or passion. More, you might say, since nature—and the propagation of the human species—depends on these passions.

But Whitman does more than just defend these young men. He identifies with them—and writes poems devoted to "libidinous joys only"—because he too is susceptible to these overwhelming desires. These are "native moments," and as a part of nature himself, Whitman also experiences them. As he announces in the first line, they come upon him as well. To insist otherwise, Whitman suggests, is to "play a part," to pretend to be someone he is not, to pretend that he is not occasionally overcome by sexual passion. It is also to "play *apart*," to separate, "exile," himself from his natural companions, male and female. I am, Whitman insists, no better than (and as good as) these young men on their midnight orgies.

Although it may seem tame to us, in its own day the poem—and others like it—could shock. Whitman's most illustrious reader, Ralph Waldo Emerson, walked with the poet through Boston Common in 1860 and advised him against publishing poems like "Native Moments" in the third edition of *Leaves of Grass*. Emerson did not mind the poems, but he thought they would scare off readers. Whitman listened thoughtfully and then politely ignored the advice. Poems like "Native Moments" would also get *Leaves of Grass* literally banned in Boston. In 1882, the Boston district attorney declared the 1881 edition of the book obscene.

In choosing to write about sex, though, Whitman insisted he had no choice at all. After the

Boston district attorney banned *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman published an essay defending himself and his book. "I could not," he wrote, speaking of *Leaves of Grass*, which he thought of as one long poem, "construct a poem which declaredly took, as never before, the complete human identity, physical, moral, emotional, and intellectual (giving precedence and compass in a certain sense to the first), nor fulfil that *bona fide* candor and entirety of treatment which was a part of my purpose, without comprehending this section also." In other words, if Whitman wanted to write about the complete human identity, he could not ignore something as essential to our identity as sex. "Sex, sex, sex," Whitman near the end of his life told Horace Traubel, "whether you sing or make a machine, or go to the North Pole, or love your mother, or build a house, or black shoes, or anything—anything at all—it's sex, sex, sex: sex is the root of it all: sex—the coming together of men and women: sex, sex."

In this chapter, I listen for what Whitman has to say about sex, the root of it all. I also listen for what he has to say about bodies, the soil of the root of it all, as it were. My hope for reading Whitman so closely, here and throughout this book, is that he can relieve us of our malaise. Unlike death and money, however, where the source of that malaise is obvious enough—we have too much of the former and not enough of the latter—our malaise about sex is less obvious. In his day, Whitman thought his contemporaries suffered from a general unwillingness to speak frankly about sex and bodies. "How people reel," he told Traubel, "when I say father-stuff and mother-stuff and onanist and bare legs and belly! O God! you might suppose I was citing some diabolical obscenity. Will the world ever get over its own indecencies and stop attributing them to God?" Whitman's wish would seem to have come true. In many respects, our world *has* gotten over its own indecencies and its own unwillingness to speak frankly about sex and bodies. Wander into any bookstore and it will doubtless have at least one wall of books devoted to Human Sexuality. And at Penn State, where I teach, students can take any number of courses about the subject, and even minor in Sexuality and Gender Studies. The same is true elsewhere. Or consider popular culture, where what used to be considered indecent is now mined for our entertainment. All told, indecencies would seem to be few and far between.

But too much can be concluded from this superficial flaunting of indecencies. In the world out there, in libraries and classrooms, on television and in best-selling erotic novels, indecencies may seem like a thing of the past. But in our own heads, I believe, and about our own bodies, where it matters, indecencies—things that cannot be said or thought or done—still abound. We may no longer attribute them to God, and they may no longer quite make us reel, but they endure nonetheless. Our sense of shame, that is, is alive and well. (Mine is, anyway, as I discovered in the course of writing this chapter.) Moreover, as Whitman knew, shame keeps us from realizing the splendor of our bodies and the grandeur of our desire. More than anything else, Whitman tries to absolve us of that shame and reconnect us to the miracle of bodies and the torment yet deliciousness of sex. It is a lesson we can still stand to hear.

At the same time, Whitman and other partisans of the sexual revolution may have succeeded all too well. If shame is one source of our malaise, the absence of any shame about our sexuality, what we might call our shamelessness, is doubtless another. By shamelessness, I mean our tendency to treat our bodies—and others'—as machines for the fulfillment of our pleasure. Alas, Whitman occasionally encourages this shamelessness. At his best, though,

he reminds us how we might navigate between these two perils: the sin of shame and the equally hazardous sin of shamelessness.

* * *

Here is how I wound up at a strip club in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains.

Before Whitman or anything he wrote can help us, we need to figure out what is wrong with us, and then whether what he has to say is of any use. So, when it comes to sex, what ails us, and what does Whitman propose doing about it? In each of the previous chapters, I am helped along in this search by retracing Whitman's steps and re-creating what inspired him, hoping not just to understand the poems better but also their contemporary relevance. In the first chapter, I boarded the Brooklyn Ferry, thereby reliving the scene that gave birth to some of Whitman's profoundest thoughts about death. In the second chapter, I followed Whitman from Brooklyn, where he built houses and took out an ill-advised loan, across the East River, through Wall Street, to Zuccotti Park, where our own generation made its stand against what Whitman called the toss and pallor of moneymaking. A chapter on sex, however, especially one that begins with a poem like "Native Moments," throws a wrench into this approach. Even if I did not love my wife as completely as I do, I could not, in good conscience, take for my love some prostitute, as Whitman boasts he will do. In addition to being illegal in all but one state, prostitution, to put it mildly, creates certain ethical dilemmas.

So what to do? How can one share in the midnight orgies of young men without getting arrested or breaking up a marriage? How can we not just read but in some way experience what Whitman has to say about sex? After some thought, it hit me, as if God Himself had revealed it. A strip club! More specifically, the End Zone Show Club in beautiful Port Matilda, Pennsylvania. Its website boasts that it is "Home to Central Pennsylvania's Hottest Dancers!" Also, that it has a free shuttle from State College. Free shuttle? Sold.

Indeed, where better to dance with the dancers, to drink with the drinkers, to make indecent calls and have them echoed back to me? Where better to find the shunned persons and come forthwith in their midst? Where better to gaze at and celebrate healthy bodies, which Whitman does so often—and encourages us to do—in his poetry? Where better, that is, to understand what Whitman has to say about sex and the body and whether what he has to say is of any use to us today? Strip clubs may be old hat to you, but not me. They retain their air of the illicit and seamy. In short, they make me a little queasy. Except for a compulsory visit to one for a friend's bachelor's party about a decade ago, I have mercifully been excused from the places. Something must indeed be wrong with them, then; or, something must be wrong with me for believing that something is wrong with them. In any case, I believe they hold a key to understanding contemporary sexuality. So off I went.

For company on my excursion to the strip club, and for general moral support, I, like Whitman, picked out some low person for my dearest friend, in this case, my real friend Tom. (I have changed his name, though he claims not to care one way or the other.) Tom, it turned out, had more experience with strip clubs than I did. (He had an old girlfriend who was into them.) Together, we made a shabby—though I hoped passable—pack of nature's darlings.

Tom and I have jobs and families, which makes it difficult to get away to a strip club when the impulse strikes, especially if we also want to get any sleep that night. (I confess that I kept putting it off, too.) As a result, we did not make it to the End Zone until the off-season, so to speak. It was May, classes had ended, and most of the Penn State students and alumni who, apparently, patronize the End Zone had gone home for the summer. After we paid the cover charge, we wandered into a dimly lit though surprisingly clean room about the size of a large lecture hall. Four poles dropped from very high ceilings. Chairs lined the dance pits and walkways. Loud music played.

Unlike many strip clubs, the End Zone makes its money off the cover charge ($20 for men, $10 for women) and not by selling overpriced drinks. In fact, the beer, served on a patio, is free, but no alcohol is allowed in the club proper. On the night we came, about half a dozen men were gathered around a single dancer. As we made our way to the patio bar, the dancer was cradling a man's head between her breasts. This surprised me—I did not realize the dancers would touch you—but it turned out to be not at all unusual.

After Tom drank a beer, we returned to the club and took our seats, probably farther from the action than was polite. A dancer—perhaps Crista, possibly Felony, it was hard to keep track of their pseudonyms—was sliding around the pole, naked as the day she was born. If that had been the extent of it—naked women dancing at a respectable distance in front of you—I probably would have enjoyed myself more than I did. What straight man, in his heart of hearts, does not like to look at naked women? But it turns out that I do not really know how strip clubs work. Dancers do not stay at a respectable distance from you. Instead, the custom is to put a dollar bill on the ledge in front of you, and, sooner or later, the dancer will make her way over to where you sit and perform for you alone, up close. You are not allowed to touch her, but she is very much allowed to touch you. Or splay in front of you. Or take your dollar bill in unusual ways.

Primed by Whitman's "Native Moments," I tried to be for those—and one of those—who believe in the loose delights of the strip club. But that was all talk. In reality, I felt nervous as a zebra in a tiger pit, and I never entirely shed my unease. I had special trouble when the dancers directed their attention to me, personally. I could not look the women in the eyes, even though they look you in the eyes, nor did I feel quite right looking directly at the parts of their body offered up for my inspection. We spend our whole lives carefully covering up those parts. With good reason, we euphemistically refer to them as our privates. Because they are private. No one should have to display them in public, least of all for money, and it seemed wrong to watch the dancers disgrace themselves. The dancers themselves seemed to feel no shame or disgrace, but I could not quite get over the feeling that they should. I could never do what they do, so I thought no one should ever have to, either. Anyway, staring would only make things worse.

Tom and I stayed an hour, maybe longer, mostly out of a sense of scholarly duty. If we had stayed longer things might have gone better, as I grew not exactly more comfortable but perhaps less uncomfortable as the night wore on and I figured out how things worked. Even so, my "native moment" never came upon me, or, if it did, it came and went quickly. My "libidinous joys only" were neither particularly libidinous nor joyful, and the drench of my

passions couldn't have put out a match. Here was life coarse and rank, here were loose delights, and instead of seizing them, as Whitman bid us to, I squirmed. Throughout the night, on a wall-mounted television behind the stage, the Pirates played the Brewers, and from time to time I had to remind myself to watch the dancers and not the game. That was not because I like baseball so much—though the Pirates would make the playoffs that year—but because it seemed less indecent to watch the game than it did to watch the naked woman in front of me humping the stage.

What came between me and my native moments? Why have I not been back to the strip club? I could blame feminism. No one earns an advanced degree in any humanities discipline these days without reading deeply in feminist theory. Simone de Beauvoir, Betty Friedan, Kate Millet, Laura Mulvey, Andrea Dworkin—the list goes on, and none of them would have much good to say about strip clubs, and rightly so. Dworkin, in particular, would have relished the role of killjoy. For Dworkin, pornography, which would include the degrading display of female bodies at a strip club, "creates hostility and aggression toward women, causing both bigotry and sexual abuse." And you cannot very well enjoy the loose delights of a strip club if, in the back of your mind, you believe that those delights share something with the instincts of the man who beats his wife, the boss who sexually harasses his employee, or the predator who rapes an acquaintance. Feminists, and I consider myself one, will never much relish tucking dollar bills into a stripper's G-string or, as one patron did, crumbling up dollar bills and throwing them at a woman as she roiled on the checkerboard floor.

It surely did not help to loosen my delights, either, that as a Marxist, I could never quite forget the economic forces guiding the dancers in front of me. Essentially, strippers work for tips, those dollar bills we tuck into their G-strings or crumple up and throw at them. Instead of receiving a wage, many dancers in fact pay the club for the privilege of stripping. To be sure, women (and men) who cut hair oftentimes strike a similar bargain, but somehow stripping seems worse, even if the pay is better. In any case, for Marxists, every dollar tucked into every G-string provides an immediate illustration of the exploitation of labor. I did not ask the question, but I assume that few of the dancers at the End Zone worked there because they felt a calling for taking off their clothes in front of strangers or dancing suggestively in their laps. Nor, I gather, were any of them independently wealthy. Rather, they worked at the End Zone because they needed money, and few jobs, assuming they could even find a job in this economy, paid as well as taking their clothes off for strangers. The owners of the strip club, and indirectly, the patrons of the strip club, including me, all take advantage of their economic insecurity.

Still, I do not think that my feminist and Marxist sympathies can fully explain my lackluster trip to the strip club. Indeed, they probably let me off far too easily. In appealing to them, I can flatter myself into thinking that I am better than the dismal, barbaric patrons who pay for lap dances and ignore the ethical implications of what they do. I do not mean that the feminist or Marxist critiques of strip clubs do not have some truth to them. Only that, if I were being honest with myself, something else put a damper on my outing to the strip club than feminism or Marxism.

Ultimately, I think I did not have fun at the strip club because I did not want to be seen as

someone who could have fun at a strip club. Because if you did have fun at a strip club, that would mean that in some sense you were in thrall to your desire, that you had surrendered your reason and your ideals to your lust. To have fun at a strip club would mean admitting that your libido trumps every other card in your hand; that you are more a desiring machine than a thoughtful human being. And among the crowd of educated, liberal, upper-middle class professionals with whom I work, gossip, and organize play dates, you can admit to almost everything else except overwhelming sexual desire. Try it. At the next dinner party, start telling the story of the funny thing that happened to you on the way to the strip club. Or the wild thing you saw on the Internet last night when you were looking at pornography. See if you are invited back.

In retrospect, part of me envies the other men at the strip club, who did not apologize for their lust. By contrast, I could do nothing but apologize for mine, so much so that I apologized it right out of existence. Some of those apologies may have been called for. The feminists and Marxists are right. Some lust does do more harm than good. But so does pretending that you do not lust, ever, or that you have complete control over it. Because if you do have complete control over it, it ceases to be lust at all. And here is where Whitman can help us. He insists, in poem after poem, that an innocent, even healthy form of lust must exist. Perhaps its finest expression is not found in strip clubs, but it must exist somewhere, and it would be surprising if it made no appearance whatsoever at a strip club. Whitman reminds us that we do not want to live in a world without lust, one without libidinous joys, and we certainly do not want to be the sort of person who cannot acknowledge these passions in himself (or, of course, herself).

In other words, those *are* some of Central Pennsylvania's Hottest Dancers, and if you cannot admit that, something is wrong.

Excerpted from "In Walt We Trust: How a Queer Socialist Poet Can Save America From Itself" by John Marsh. Copyright © 2015 by John Marsh. Reprinted by arrangement with Monthly Review Press. All rights reserved.

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Was the Loch Ness Monster Inspired by Earthquakes?

smithsonianmag.com

Just one of many monsters that might have geological origins.

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By Danny Lewis
smithsonian.com May 7, 2015

Could natural disasters have inspired the some of the great monsters of mythology? An Italian geologist named Luigi Piccardi believes that stories from around the world of dragons' lairs and monsters lashing out might be attributed to fault lines and seismic activity. And Piccardi also thinks that earthquakes could have helped spawn one of our more recently invented demons: the Loch Ness monster.

"When you look at the reports of people who saw the monster, they say we heard a great noise, saw a large commotion in the water, and that the waves rocked," Piccardi told Katherine Chang for ABC News in 2001. "They say we couldn't see the beast because the water hid the creature. The usual sighting is humps moving in the lake and normal waves, which can be related to the seismic effect."

Piccardi has made a career of explaining away mythic monsters, and Nessie is just one of his targets, reports Kate Wheeling for *Pacific Standard*. In a talk from 2001's *Earth System Processes* meeting, Piccardi discussed the potential that some ancient Greek cults and myths might have been inspired by dramatic geological activity near fault lines. He then pointed to Scotland, as a possible, more modern, example of this phenomenon:

> In the original Latin description the dragon appears 'cum ingenti fremitu' (with strong shaking), and disappears 'tremefacta' (shaking herself), which seems to point to a telluric nature of the monster living in the lake. In fact, Loch Ness is positioned directly over the fault zone of the most seismic sector (for example the M=5 earthquake of 18.09.1901) of the Great Glen Fault, the major active fault in Scotland. In this light, many modern eyewitness reports attributed to Nessie may find a simple natural explanation.

Piccardi admits his evidence is circumstantial, and diehard believers in the Loch Ness Monster aren't convinced: there have been several Nessie sightings reported so far this year. Even Google is getting in on the hunt. After the talk, Gary Campbell, the president of the Loch Ness Monster Fan Club, still stuck to his guns, writes Wheeling:

> As Gary Campbell, president of the Loch Ness Monster Fan Club, told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, 'Piccardi seems to forget that we have a thousand

> stories of people who say they have seen in the water something solid like a head and a neck.'

However, Nessie's true believes aren't the only skeptics: as David Bressan wrote for *Scientific American* in 2013, "a surviving plesiosaur in Loch Ness can more reasonable [sic] be explained by a combination of hoaxes, misidentification of common animals and promotion for tourists."

Whether the Loch Ness Monster was a sign of underground tremors or just an oddly-shaped log, some diehard believers still think the beast is out there, lurking in the depths.

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By Ken Summers on 04/14/2015 whofortedblog.com

Weird Science: Tennessee Veterinarian's Genetic Mutant Meddling Creates Werewolves. Sort Of.

Imagine yourself home on the night of a full moon. You're eating popcorn and watching American Horror Story. You don't notice your bedroom door creaking open slowly and a pair of yellow eyes glaring at you. Stealthily, it approaches your bed. You feel its fur brush your elbow. You gasp and turn, spilling your popcorn to the floor. And then… you hear ***purring****.*

Sound bizarre? Well, reality could be a whole lot freakier. Dr. Johnny Gobble, a Tennessee veterinarian, is behind the creation of a new cat breed–a natural mutation of the domestic shorthair–resulting in a cat that behaves a bit like a dog and looks like something you'd want to keep off the streets of London. They have a fitting name: Lykoi cats.

Distinctive balding patterns make Lykoi cats truly unique in appearance.

Greek for "wolf cat", the Lykoi is the result of a gene mutation observed over the past 20 years. The mutation effects hair follicles, resulting in cats that are nearly hairless on their legs and stomach, as well as on their muzzles and around their eyes. Without an undercoat, they appear to resemble a partially-transformed werewolf. Dr. Gobble noticed this effect of a recessive gene and studied it extensively. After finding two unrelated cats to breed in 2010, the Lykoi were officially recognized as a new breed in 2012 by the International Cat Association. And this new breed exhibits unusual traits. Like a hunting dog, these smart and affectionate creatures are motivated by scent and very loyal to their owners. They also have a fondness for using their paws like hands and are sometimes observed clasping them together in a prayer-like manner.

Dr. Johnny Gobble, posing with one of his Lykoi cats. (Tyler Oxendine/Metropulse)

Of course, they're not without their controversy. So-called "designer breeds" of dogs and cats often ruffle some fur and raise questions about health and unscrupulous breeding practices. By turning a mutation into a breed, they might be viewed as unnatural abominations, which is ironically the same as werewolves in legend (and possibly real wolfmen). Wally Conron, creator of the "Labradoodle," knows this the bad sides all too well. Today, he regrets ever making them. Their popularity led to widespread breeding prompted by pure greed without thought of background and genetics resulting in animals prone to problems. "I opened a Pandora's Box, that's what I did," Conron told *The Guardian*. "I released a Frankenstein."

Breeding opinions aside, these animals are not monsters. And just like *Wolfman* and

Frankenstein's Monster, they didn't choose to be the way that they are. But with a price tag ranging from $1000 to $2500, odds are that you'll want to stick with looking at pictures of them on the internet for now. As breeding expands, though, they may become more economically attainable, yet you may want to make sure you're getting them from reputable breeders (like Johnny and Brittney Gobble, the first breeders) who aren't just out to make a fast buck. There are so many cats in shelters across the country, looking for a good home. Just because they aren't weirdly unique in appearance doesn't mean they may not be as quirky as their future owners.

2 Comments

1. evilsloth4

04/15/2015 at 9:06 PM

The cat being held doesn't look real. I once had a poly-something poodle with the same pose.

2. Cody

04/17/2015 at 4:27 PM

I think those cats are still cute like other cats

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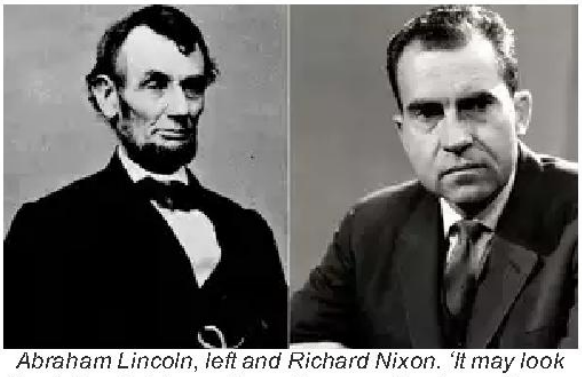
Were Lincoln and Nixon gay? The 'history' book that is dividing America

Edward Helmore
Saturday 11 April 2015 Last modified on Saturday 11 April 2015 theguardian.com

Award-winning author and gay-rights activist Larry Kramer's new book aims to counter the exclusion of homosexuality from history



Abraham Lincoln, left and Richard Nixon. 'It may look like fiction, but to me, it's not,' says author Larry Kramer of his book. Photograph: Rex Features Larry Kramer with film star Julia Roberts backstage at the Emmy awards last year. Photograph: Todd Williamson/Invision/AP

Gay-rights activist and award-winning author Larry Kramer is 79 and in failing health, but that won't defuse the impact of his latest bombshell project: the first 800-page instalment of a two-part history of America that tells of the secret gay life of figures from Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln to Mark Twain, Herman Melville and Richard Nixon.

The American People: Volume 1, subtitled *Search for My Heart*, has taken nearly 40 years to complete and may prove to be one of the most provocative historical, or pseudo-historical, accounts of American history.

Kramer, who is co-founder of Aids services group Gay Men's Health Crisis and the Aids Coalition to Unleash Power (Act Up), as well as a chronicler of queer life with plays including *The Normal Heart* and *The Destiny of Me,* said the book is a labour of love designed to counter what he feels to be the exclusion of gays – or gay life – from history books.

"It may look like fiction, but to me, it's not," Kramer told the New York Times last week. "Most histories have been written by straight people. There has never been any history book written where the gay people have been in the history from the beginning.It's ridiculous to think we haven't been here for ever."

The American People, Volume I: Search for My Heart is causing consternation among historians, who say there is little evidence to back Kramer's claims.

Ron Chernow, author of an epic 2004 biography of Alexander Hamilton – the statesman Kramer claims was at least bisexual if not entirely gay – cautions against "ransacking history in service of a political agenda".

Kramer also claims that John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln not because he was unhappy that the South was losing the civil war, but because Lincoln had spurned him.

"You only have to look at photographs of Wilkes and [co-conspirator] Lewis Powell to see that they're full of their own beauty. We call it gaydar – the thing straight historians don't have. Or take Mark Twain. He had a huge gay life."

Kramer has a history of initiating high-profile disputes. He had a war of words with Tony Kushner over acknowledging Lincoln's orientation in his screenplay for Steven Spielberg's 2012 biopic of the civil war president.

He scrapped with Barbra Streisand over her planned film adaptation of *The Normal Heart*. The author insisted it should include gay sex; Streisand retorted that her intention was "to promote the idea of everyone's right to love. Gay or straight!"

The American People is likely to rankle with historians as there is no evidence many of historical figures were gay. He claims Lincoln biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin became "hysterical" at the suggestion of homosexual tendencies in the president but this was, he added in an interview with NPR, "only because she didn't write it first".

The book, which has been labelled as a novel to avoid legal complications, has divided US reviewers. LGBT magazine *The Advocate* said that at points in Kramer's book "the reader will feel like the audience at *Springtime for Hitler*". The *New York Times* calls it "a far-reaching historical exposé".

The first volume spans pre-Columbian Florida, Puritans and early settlements (brimming with same-sex desire), the American revolution, the civil war and the years leading to the second world war. It includes a history of syphilis, hepatitis, hatred, ostracism, concentration camps, the CIA, and a shadowy disease. The disease is named as Aids in the second volume, due in 2017, which will bring the history to the present.

Larry Kramer with film star Julia Roberts backstage at the Emmy awards last year.

Aaron Hicklin, editor of *Out* magazine, said young members of the LGBT community are becoming interested in their history, a history that will not automatically be passed on because so many of the elder generation died young of HIV/Aids.

Whether it is absolutely accurate or not, *The American People* speaks to a need across gay and straight communities to revise historical accounts from which sexual orientation was absent. This can be seen in the mainstream – Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*, for instance, or the story of Harvey Milk in *Milk* (2008) – but rarely goes further back in time.

"The gay historical timeline tends to go back as far as Oscar Wilde and no further," said Hicklin. "There were pioneers before us but no one took the time to write about them, and there's an appetite to claim a history that has been hidden from us."

From some quarters there have been calls for a exclusively gay branch of archaeology directed solely at establishing sexual orientation (Kramer claims traces of semen found in the stools of English settlers prove his point).

But where gay rights warriors sought to define themselves as gay in defiance of the stigma

around Aids, Hicklin considers that sexual orientation is no longer a singular marker of identity. “Young people feel much more a part of mainstream society, so a lot has been forgotten about the price that was paid.

“For Larry Kramer, it’s important to carry on being the archetypal activist who wants to queerify history and bring it out into the public domain.”

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of *The American People* is that it was written at all. Kramer began writing it in 1975, soon after publication of his groundbreaking novel *Faggots*. He shelved it until 2000, when his liver was failing and he was given weeks to live.

By 2010, Kramer having had a liver transplant, the manuscript had swelled to 4,000 pages. Kramer’s editor at Macmillan says he is in no doubt that writing is what keeps him alive.

Kramer believes the injustice is continuing. Thirty five years since HIV/Aids was identified there is still no cure, and violence against gay people is increasing in several parts of the world. “We should have our own army as gays,” he told *The Advocate*.

“It’s lovely that we can get married, but that’s really small potatoes compared to what we don’t have, which is equality.”

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What does 170-year-old champagne taste like?

By Emily Conover 20 April 2015 3:30 pm 5 Comments

sciencemag.org

• ∘ **16 Apr 2015 Vol. 348 #6232**

What does 170-year-old champagne taste like?

What does 170-year-old champagne taste like?

In 2010, divers recovered a trove of untouched champagne in a Baltic Sea shipwreck. Thanks to branding on the corks of the bottles, researchers traced the bubbly back to the champagne houses of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin, Heidsieck, and Juglar, estimating that they had been corked in the 1830s or 1840s. The watery resting place 50 meters below the surface provided near perfect aging conditions: cold, stable temperatures and complete darkness. Now, scientists have studied the sparkling wine's chemical composition and performed aroma and taste analyses to reveal details about the champagne-making process in times past. Tasters described the aroma of the champagne—likely the oldest ever imbibed—as spicy, smoky, and leathery, the researchers report online today in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. At 9% alcohol by volume, it was significantly less alcoholic than the modern version, which contains about 12% alcohol, likely due to a less efficient fermentation process. The researchers also found traces of chemicals from wood, suggesting that the champagne was fermented in barrels. Nuclear magnetic resonance measurements indicated that the bubbly, which was more sugary than the modern version, had likely been sweetened with grape syrup. The champagne had low levels of acetic acid, a marker of spoiled wine, indicating that it was well preserved. But the aged drink had lost much of its fizz, containing much less carbon dioxide than modern champagne, likely because it had diffused out through the cork during its centuries under the sea.

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Where have all the ghosts gone? | Eva Wiseman

A generation ago the nation was spooked by the Enfield Poltergeist and its tales of flying furniture and a haunted young girl… But what is scaring us now?

theguardian.com

Fright night: the Hodgson children were at the centre of the Enfield hauntings at their home in Geen Street. 'It's a story about the suburbs as a site of creativity and darkness, and adolescent sexuality with nowhere to go,' says Eva Wiseman. Photograph: Mirrorpix

Sunday 10 May 2015 01.00 EDT

In 1977, a chest of drawers slid across a room and began the best story I've ever heard. The Enfield Poltergeist, and the single-parent family it "haunted" for more than a year, is one of few such cases to remain unsolved – nobody has yet explained how 11-year-old Janet Hodgson flew across the room, or how the fireplace was wrenched from her bedroom wall, or how, when in trances, she spoke in the voice of the old man, Bill, who had died there years earlier. I've been obsessed with the Enfield Poltergeist since I was Janet's age, so I'm excited about Sky's reimagining and next year's film. The story is rich with my chosen subjects: the suburbs as a site of creativity and darkness, teenage girls, and adolescent sexuality with nowhere to go, like a wasp in a glass.

There's no such thing as ghosts, but people swear they've seen them. So it's far more interesting to ask not: "Do poltergeists exist?" but instead: "What does a poltergeist stand for?", especially when the answer is usually sex. Sex, banging on the walls and moving the bed and sending pubescent girls into fits on the carpet. "I felt used," Janet told Channel 4, "by a force that nobody understands."

Psychoanalysts have long been interested in the paranormal, in the idea that these experiences – the sighting of ghosts, the breaking of glasses – are projections of repressed or difficult memories. The haunted person is being haunted by her own thoughts. And if she sees a cupboard slamming in an empty room, she may not believe it was her hand that slammed it. The Enfield police officer who saw an armchair move, "unassisted, 4ft across the floor", and the investigator Maurice Grosse who picked up marbles after they flew at him to find they were hot… were they caught in a collective hysteria? Were they lying, or scared, or confused? People see what they're primed to see. Children abandoned by their father might seek the attention of men (like these investigators), and continue a "haunting" to keep them around.

Perhaps this makes me the worst journalist *ever*, but in a story about a child who thinks she's seen a ghost it's these detective details – sleep paralysis, vocal tricks – that I find the least interesting. I don't want to listen to facts if facts mean pissing on wonder. The thing that I return to is the idea of a girl in turmoil. And where one person might cut herself or another get into fights outside the off-licence, this one bottled her emotions up until she flew across a room.

Hardly. Einstein is world famous and I've never heard of sir Oliver whatsisname. Btw, why has no ghostie ever been caught on the millions of mobile cameras that now exist? Why do believers never refer to the many, many times frauds have been uncovered?

- Conniston Mark Saunders

15h ago

Mark, you have heard of Einstein because he starts from the base that the mind and brain are the same, when you are dead, you're dead. This is what he wrote in the New York Times on April 19, 1955. "I don't believe that the individual survives the death of his body, although feeble souls harbour such thoughts through fear or ridiculous egotism." Sir Oliver Lodge has been written out of our history books because he started from the base that we do all possess a soul that separates from the dead physical body. Have a look at what the pioneers of radio and television said about life after death. These are men who understood about forces in nature that we can't normally see and sense. John Logie Baird in his memoirs tells how a scientist took finger prints of a "dead" person who materialised. They were identical to those on the dead body.

- Rufman Conniston

13h ago

If you believe the fingerprint story, I have a lovely bridge.....

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Teenagers are not having an easier time today. Their bodies still change too fast to keep up with, and their feelings, too. Many are bullied like Janet and her 14-year-old sister were, and live in homes like the Hodgsons' (where in 1977 it was unusual for a woman to be bringing up four children alone). But one thing has changed. Where have all the poltergeists gone? Surely young people aren't so at ease in their puberty, so comfortable in their sexuality and identity that they no longer repress their emotions to the extent that they believe they see ghosts. What's the modern equivalent of an invisible spirit that breaks things with an unknown strength? Could it be catfishing, using false online identities for deception, bruising the furniture of every relationship? Is that where the ghosts are today, in the WiFi? Is that what's making my streaming go funny?

Except there is something pure and effective in using your suppressed desires to move a whole double bed rather than to make a stranger on Facebook believe you look like Kate Upton. Real-life ghost stories offer the opportunity for a unique kind of unsureness. We know "science", and we know "hoaxes", but still there is something in many of us that yearns for the possibility that ghosts exist. Not as sheet-like apparitions – as unexplainable visions, mischievous movement, expressions of our guilt or frustration. As our very own special effects. Consider this column a ouija board. Summoning back our ghosts.

Email Eva at e.wiseman@observer.co.uk. Follow Eva on Twitter @EvaWiseman

- Sandra Scott
11m ago

Well I was living in Enfield at that time of the 'hauntings' having come from another part of the UK and Eva's comment of 'It's a story about the suburbs as a site of creativity and darkness, and adolescent sexuality with nowhere to go,' I couldn't agree with that more. It was a time of oppression and depression, the antithesis of the flowery and wild wallpapers and bed covers that graced our bedrooms inviting us to live with vivacity but it fact it was a deeply stiffling time and in Enfield I am sorry to say, a racist, small minded, dark and bullying world, or should I say that I, as an outsider that was how experienced it. I cannot go back as it makes me feel creepy and squashed, although it is probably a different place now. So watching this programme has brought this all back more than the 'hauntings'. Nevertheless as a potential 'acting out' of inner turmoil I can absolutely understand the above analysis and of course we all like a good ghost story or should I say we know Houdini and David Blaine et al where/are magicians but want to believe they are not really, that it is possible there is something else, some other world of magic, weirdness - whatever!

- Madranon
18m ago

The question is not is there life after death, but is there life before death?

- AussieSutra
33m ago

The poltergeists are still there, but the media is far more controlled today than it was in 1977.

- Conniston AussieSutra
20m ago

Exactly AussieSutra: Just think of who is going to be made to look very silly indeed if millions of people find out that it is a scientific fact that we all survive the death of our physical body. Orthodox scientific teaching across every discipline starts from the base that the Mind and brain are the same, "When you are dead, you're dead." The Psychology Departments in universities all over the world have declared war on the Greek source of their word - Psychology = Soul.

- sun2day
51m ago

If ghosts exist, why aren't hospices the most haunted places in the world?

- DeputyPeck sun2day
13m ago

At the risk of plundering Seinfeld, if you could cross over to the other side and witness the mysteries of the Universe, would you want to hang around a hospice?

- missamaryllis
1h ago
0 1

When I was a third year student nurse at St George's, Tooting, I had an unnerving experience. I was commencing night duty on a womens' medical ward. We'd admitted a little old lady, who was a medium at a spiritualist church in nearby Balham.

The House Officer had written her up for her medication, including night sedation. I was doing my drug round to give the final medications before settling the patients down for the night. I tipped out the tablets for our new patient and took them over to her.

She stirred and glared ferociously at me, then the words came out of her mouth in a man's voice "Do not deceive this child". Her eyes began to flicker with nystagmus. She jumped out of bed and began to assume bizarre postures. Other voices emerged, some swearing, some speaking in gibberish. There was a horrible smell around her, rather like burnt sugar. The nurse auxiliaries ran from patient to patient, trying to reassure them - some had begun to cry.

I ran to bleep the Night Sister and the House Officer. Night Sister, unfortunately was West Indian - she rolled her eyes and ran away. It took several porters to restrain our patient, and she had i/m largactical with very little effect. Eventually, I nursed her in a side room for the night, on a mattress on the floor. The little old lady was so strong that she could tear a, oxygen ventimask up with her fingers, and hit me repeatedly. It was

ghastly. Eventually, the shoutings and ravings in different voices died down a little, but the nystagmus continued. Checking her pupils for reaction, it was if there were different, malignant eyes looking back at me. We made it to the morning, and I handed over to the day staff in considerable relief, suggesting the hospital chaplain should be involved. That morning, her spiritualist friends took her home.

This was back in 1975, and I've never forgotten it.

Reply |
Report

- sun2day missamaryllis
52m ago

> This was back in 1975, and I've never forgotten it.

You should have called Max von Sydow.

- Conniston missamaryllis
42m ago

There must be a rational scientific explanation to account for what this nurse witnessed and many others. The Society for Psychical Research was set up in the 1880's to look into this type of thing. All scientists are now talking about 95% of the universe being missing. This could be the spiritual part of the universe that we all come from and return to after our short stay on Earth. Gravity could also be from this spiritual part of the universe, keeping all the oceans from flying off into space. Also keeping a the stars in a galaxy from doing the same thing.

- Dominic Stinton missamaryllis
36m ago

what a great story.

- SometimesSaturday
3h ago

This is a terrific little piece, Eva. You are a thousand times better on things you really care about than on things you merely posture about (e.g. Tesco).

- crazeecracka SometimesSaturday
1h ago

Drole

- Thomas_Atkinson
6h ago

1/14th of the humans who have ever existed are alive today.

- Thomas_Atkinson Thomas_Atkinson
6h ago

or 14% i forget(its only a factor of 2)

- Simother
6h ago

Well I can tell you some ghoststories that will really unsettel you.

- everchanging
9h ago

There's an academic group, Skeptical About Skeptics, who highlight the problem of "unscientific skeptics", the ones that often try to debunk **all** of these kinds of phenomena people report ... as merely delusions or misfiring brain problems. Clearly, this is organised debunking.

The article on the left of their page - how *Wikipedia* is being "affected" - is interesting, to say the least. Which is why I said above that *Wiki* is best treated with caution on this subject. Original sources are best, but you have to work on this.

- russhector
10h ago

Am I the only one that finds this uber scientific / slightly blasphemous viewpoint a little bit arrogant?

- Nicsel
11h ago

I'm pretty sure Most Haunted took all the joy out of the ghost hunt. I SEE AN ORB! I see ham acting!

- StevoKingoftheNewts
11h ago

A lot of ghosts didn't survive the introduction of electric lighting.

As for the programme The Enfield Haunting, it starts really well but is just daft by the end. Worth watching, but not worth staying in to watch.

- Madranon
13h ago

I am not sure if things that happen are the result of intelligence or some residual thing going on but I have experienced some odd goings on, some manifestation of a gentleman walking down from a wall for instance. Then later it is discovered that there

was an old flight of stairs since broken and bricked in. Animals seen, the place was an old farm.
I think that there is something but what science that lies behind it it is probably as inexplicable today as satellite TV and the internet was a thousand years ago.

- tpeck
13h ago

Personally, I think we are all ghosts.

- Andrew Paul Wood
13h ago

Can we bring back witch burnings and get rid of medicine too while we're at it?

- Macaron
13h ago

I have worked in a lot of creepy old hospitals over the years, footsteps along empty corridors, strange noises and feelings.

- Michael John Jackson
14h ago

At the risk of sounding like the next person to die in a cliched horror flick. There is no such thing as ghosts, there is a logical explination for everything.

'The door bell, at this unearthly hour.....'

- padtams
14h ago

I had exactly the same experience many years ago at a B&B in Devon. Our son was a baby and I woke at 2am to see a woman leaning over his cot. I moved to wake up my husband and she turned to look at me. It was dark so I couldn't see features on her face. She disappeared when he woke up but within seconds, the room become very light - so light that I got out of bed to see if there was a security light on. It was pitch dark outside. Whilst still out of bed, the room pitched into darkness and 2 extremely bright orbs were floating 2 foot above the cot. My husband shouted at me to get the baby out but I was too scared! He got the baby from the cot and put him in bed with us. We sat up for 4 hours with the light on and left as soon as we could. I was terrified and traumatised. People who don't believe in the supernatural have simply never experienced it. P.S - my baby son is now 21 and is regularly disturbed at night by ghosts (even though we never told him this story in case it frightened him)

    - Wubble padtams
    13h ago

coughbullshitcough

- Madranon padtams
12h ago

I have seen orbs, though I live in a tectonic area in the west. The presence of lights tends to be associated with ground movement common in the west of the UK.

- Jovan Mikonjic padtams
12h ago

I had some experiences that made me realize this kind of things are very real. Since then I learned that quite a few people (couple of my close friends even) have had different sorts of ghost contact. Most of these were benign but quite shocking for the rational mind. People are usually reluctant to discuss these experiences because its frowned upon by the modern society, and they don't want to seem looney.

Some people are just more sensitive to this sort of phenomenon, your son is probably one of them, and its up to him to learn how to understand this and live with it.
On the other side a ghost can be very persistent and almost anyone can run into a ghost when residing in the same place with it.

If your son is disturbed, he should seek advice from people with similar sensibility who have more experience in handling this special reality. And learn how to understand and confront these situations without fear, and gain control over his life experience.

It is good that he has your understanding to start with, stand by him always, it is just like dealing with any other situation that we learn to adopt. There is wisdom on this matter, people have been having these experiences and theres no reason to assume they have stopped occurring, they simply just aren't a topic for mainstream media anymore for the same reason that people are not discussing it.

Always be bold,
I wish you all the best.

- Adrian Fox
14h ago

The latest fad seems to be lots of ghosts turning up on digital photos. Quite why ghosts are only detectable on a sensor that only detects light in the visible spectrum while they are invisible to that far more sensitive apparatus, the human eye, has always defeated me. But the advent of digital imaging and Photoshop has made everything possible. I really miss the days when ectoplasm required the employment of large expanses of

muslin, and somehow wonder why ectoplasm is no longer of any interest to our current day apparitions. Perhaps the recession is somehow to blame?

- hybridartifacts Adrian Fox
44m ago

Photographing 'orbs' became very popular with the advent of digital photography.

- Lecso
14h ago

Ghosts have been superseded by chemtrails.

- ID3647817
14h ago

My husband and I purchased a three-story Victorian that needed a lot of work. To protect the tools we had a couple of friends stay in the house while we went home for the nights. They reported hearing people (person) walking up the stairs - of course we didn't believe them, thought they were stoned or... They went out of town one evening and my husband and I had to stay in the house. Yep, someone, 'thing' was walking up and down the stairs. Never saw 'it,' but the sound was unmistakable.

- handyhand
14h ago

I'm loving this comment thread, please keep posting your stories of strange things happening!
Anyway, I
don't believe in ghosts..... but I am scared of them, and really do not want to see one. Even though they don't exist. Yeah I know, contradictory. I just love a good ghost story, MR James, Susan Hill, etc. Anyhow, we did have a couple of strange things happen when I was about 16, two drinking glasses exploded on two different occasions in the kitchen. They literally blew up, scattering tiny shards all over the place. There certainly was stress in the house at the time, but nothing particularly unusual. My mum and I were witness to both smashings, but we were, and remain, more excitedly intrigued than anything, and assume it was something 'scientific' at work. I would love to know what might have caused it!

- edinburghgirl handyhand
13h ago

This can sometimes just happen. I've seen it when working in bars - sometimes the glass just weakens over time, and they just shatter everywhere. I had a glass just explode in my hand at the lightest touch. I don't know the exact mechanism, but I've seen it happen more than once.

- Madranon edinburghgirl

13h ago

I had that happen once, at first I thought SNIPER! but the window was intact and curtains closed.

- handyhand Madranon
13h ago

Haha! Love that your first thought was sniper. Thanks Edinburghgirl that's interesting....although have to admit I was hoping for a spookier explanation.....

- Conniston
15h ago

The appalling attack on our great pioneers of radio and television is beyond the pale - Crookes, Lodge and Logie Baird. How about a current Nobel Laureate for physics from Cambridge University - Professor B.D. Josephson. He is head of the Mind-Matter Unification Project. Is he also a gullible idiot? Have a look at his website. You can hear him take on James Randi on a BBC radio broadcast:
http://www.tcm.phy.cam.ac.uk/~bdj10

- SiLanc
15h ago

Eva Wiseman's eyebrows...this is what wakes me up in a cold sweat

- Adrian Fox SiLanc
14h ago

Like supernatural phenomena, they are entirely artificial and a work of the imagination.

- Conniston
16h ago

There is a plaque at Oxford University on the very spot where Sir Oliver Lodge sent the first radio signal in 1894. Have a look at what this great scientist wrote in 1933 regarding so-called ghosts and the study about us having a soul that separates from the dead physical body.

http://www.cfpf.org.uk/articles/scientists/lodge/mofe.html

If you don't like the idea of surviving death and being immediately reunited with our loved ones who have passed over before us, then go back to following Einstein into oblivion.

- Mark Saunders Conniston
15h ago

Who put Bella down the Wych Elm?

Strangeremains
April 24th 2015, 2:27:16 pm
http://strangeremains.tumblr.com/post/117280498648/who-put-bella-down-the-wych-elm-when-a-woman-is

When a woman is murdered in the prime of her life and her body is left unidentified the story tends to capture the attention of the public because the mystery of her death is compounded by the apparent lack of loved ones to report her missing or claim her remains. Her life and homicide become a blank slate on which people speculate and spread rumors filled with romanticism, scandal, or conspiracy in an attempt to understand what happened.

"Bella in the Wych Elm" is an example of the public's morbid fascination with the murder of a young woman and how the enigma of her case can take on a life of its own. People purposed all sorts of weird theories that involved witches, ritual sacrifice, a Hand of Glory, German spies, even a trapeze artist.

On April 18, 1943 four boys were out looking for birds nests in the Hagley Woods of Worcestershire, in the West Midlands area of England, when they came across an elm tree. Locals referred to this tree as a Wych Elm because they thought it was really creepy-looking. One of the boys climbed up and looked inside the hollowed out trunk and found a human skull looking up at him.

Although the boys vowed not to tell anyone about what they discovered, the youngest boy was so disturbed he told his father who in turn contacted the police. The Warwickshire Police went out to inspect the Wych Elm and recovered a mostly complete skeleton, fragments of clothing, crepe shoes, as well as a severed hand buried nearby.

The skeletal remains were examined by Professor James Webster, a forensic scientist at the University of Birmingham, and concluded that the bones belonged to a woman between 35 and 40 years old, about five feet tall, who gave birth to one child, and had irregular teeth. Because Webster found a piece of taffeta stuffed inside the woman's mouth, he surmised that the she had been murdered by asphyxiation at least 18 months earlier. He also believed that the body had been disposed of in the elm shortly after death because her body would not have been able to fit if rigor mortis had set in.

Investigators used the post-mortem info to try and identify the body. They cross-referenced the description with missing persons reports from throughout the region, but none matched the Wych Elm skeleton. Because the woman's teeth were so distinctive, they also contacted dentists all over the country to see if they had any patients that had the same teeth. None of these searches provided any results.

The murder investigation was widely publicized and the press started calling it the "Tree Murder Riddle." Six months after the bones were found, graffiti messages that said, "WHO PUT BELLA DOWN THE WYCH ELM-HAGLEY WOOD?" appeared on buildings throughout the area. Police searched for the vandal(s) because the graffiti implied that someone knew the identity of the woman and had some leads on her homicide but that hunt also proved fruitless. The graffiti gave a name to the unidentified body and she was referred to as "Bella" from that point forward.

Two years after the Bella was discovered, Margaret Murray, an anthropologist and archaeologist from the University College London, proposed one of the more outlandish theories about the case. Murray argued that Bella had been executed during an occult ceremony and that her hand was removed to be used as a "Hand of Glory." A Hand of Glory was a dismembered hand used by burglars as a candle that was carried into homes they wished to steal from to make the inhabitants fall asleep. The problem with this theory was that a Hand of Glory had to be cut from the body of a felon who had just been hanged at the gallows. Murray also linked the Bella case to the murder of a man named Charles Walton in nearby Lower Quinton, who was killed with a pitchfork.

Although Murray was a pioneering archaeologist and anthropologist, she did have a tendency to see witches everywhere. She wrote several books on the history of witchcraft in Western Europe and proposed in one that there was secret cabal of witches that infiltrated the highest levels of English nobility and knocked off a number of kings. Murray's ideas seem to be the basis for the rumor that was popular between 1943 and 1953, Bella been killed by gypsies during an occult ritual.

Wilfred Byford-Jones, a journalist working for a local paper, the Wolverhampton Express and Star, examined the case for a series of articles and dismissed the gypsy angle. According to Byford-Jones, writing under the pen-name Quaestor, "As for the gipsy theory, whether the young woman is supposed to have been a gipsy who was ritualistically murdered with witchcraft or after a trial by her tribe, well, I do not accept it. It is true that there had been gipsies for years in the area, but every crime is laid at the door of Romanies."

In 1953, a reader, referring to herself as Anna, wrote a letter to Byford-Jones and claimed that Bella was part of a WWII-era spy ring sent by the Germans to get intel on the area's munitions factories. Anna wrote that this spy ring was made up of " a Dutchman, a foreign trapeze artist, and a British Army officer." She said the British

officer, who was a relative of hers, had been spying for the Germans, and that Bella was a Dutchwoman who had known too much. Anna said the officer and his friend, a trapeze artist performing at the Birmingham Hippodrome, killed Bella and disposed of her body in the Hagley Woods.

Byford-Jones and the police believed it was possible that spies were in the area during World War II because there were a lot of factories that were essential to the English war effort, and knowing the locations of these factories would have been valuable info for the Germans. The police and MI5 looked into Anna's allegations, and although some of her statements were verified, the information went nowhere. More than 40 years passed and the case went cold once again.

When the West Mercia Police published their case file after the investigation was officially closed in 1999, it was discovered that part of the file was missing and Bella's bones had disappeared. Following the post-mortem exam in 1943, Dr. Webster sent the bones to a friend at the University of Birmingham for some unofficial tests, but there are no records about what happened to the remains after that. This caused some people to speculate that this was proof of a cover-up at the highest levels of government.

Then MI5 declassified their file on a Czech-born Gestapo agent named Josef Jakobs. What was revealed in that file is like something straight out of a spy novel.

Josef Jakobs was arrested by the Home Guard, a volunteer organization that protected England's coast and strategic factories during WWII, after he parachuted into Cambridgeshire in January of 1941. In Jakobs' file was a photo that he had when he was arrested. Jakobs told MI5 that the photo was of his lover, a German woman named Clara Bauerle. He said that Bauerle was a cabaret singer and actress, and the two met at a Café in Hamburg where she was singing. He claimed that Clara was recruited by senior Nazis because she spent a few years singing in the West Midlands and could speak English with a Birmingham accent. Jakobs said that Clara was supposed to parachute into the Midlands after he had made radio contact, but he doubted she would make the journey since he was arrested before he could communicate with his team. Josef Jakobs was executed by a firing squad on August 15, 1941 and was the last man to be put to death in the Tower of London.

Clara Bauerle is a plausible candidate for "Bella" because Clara was born in Stuttgart in 1906 so she would have been 35 if she died in 1941. Also English-speaking audiences could mishear her name as Clara Bella. According to news articles, Clara's singing and acting career came to abrupt end in 1941.

The idea that "Bella" was Clara Bauerle seems to be the most popular theory right now and it's convincing. Other theories are that Bella was the girlfriend of a GI and she was murdered when she became pregnant, she was prostitute, or a local who died when she took shelter in the tree during a German air raid.

Although closed, the case remains unsolved. Unless "Bella's" remains are found and subjected to a DNA test, we may never know who she was or who stuffed her body inside that tree. The graffiti continues to appear, most recently someone wrote "Who put Bella in the Witch Elm?" on the side of a 200 year old obelisk on August 18, 1999. The wych elm that served as Bella's coffin for at least 18 months still stands in the Hagley Woods.

Woman Blames Car Crash On Coffee-Crazed Parrot

huffingtonpost.com

Posted: 04/17/2015 9:03 am EDT Updated: 04/17/2015 9:59 am EDT

UNIONTOWN, Pa. (AP) — State police say a woman blames her coffee-drinking pet parrot for distracting her moments before she crashed her car into a guardrail in Pennsylvania.

Troopers from Uniontown say the 35-year-old woman was driving on a South Union Township road just before 5 p.m. Tuesday when she noticed the bird pecking at the lid of her coffee cup. The woman says she struck the guardrail when she glanced down to see what the bird was doing.

The woman told police that the bird likes to drink coffee — and they also found bird seed in a cup holder next to the coffee and a few feathers nearby.

Police say the woman broke her arm and had facial cuts because her air bag deployed.

The bird was safely removed from the vehicle.

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Nigeria: Bird Turns to Old Woman in Lagos

allafrica.com

Photo: Vanguard Bird woman.

LAGOS -- Residents of Ajegunle area of Lagos were, yesterday, thrown into shock, after a bird was said to have transformed into an old woman who confessed to being a witch.

The dark-complexioned nonagenarian with tribal marks, who spoke in Yoruba, told a bewildered crowd that she was on her way back to Ibadan, Oyo State (as a bird) when she missed her track.

She was also said to have told the mammoth crowd that her mystical powers disappointed her because it was dawn.

Eye-witnesses told Vanguard that three black birds were seen at about 7am, flying side-by-side along Old Ojo Road.

Then, all of a sudden, one of them landed on a moving pick-up van owned by Eko Electricity Distribution Company.

An eye witness who identified himself simply as Mr Okafor said: "Immediately the bird landed on the van, it transformed into an old woman.

"Everyone ran away at first but we later gathered round the woman only to discover that she had a bruise on her forehead with which she landed.

"When we asked her what her mission was, she said three of them were sent to Lagos from their coven in Ibadan but that on their way back, they missed their way.

"She said they started hovering in the area until it was morning, adding that she fell because she was tired.

"She also told us that she initially did not want to embark on the journey and that she used to restrict her witchcraft activities to Ibadan because of her age.

"She was thereafter taken to the Baale of Ajeromi, where she confessed to have killed her husband through witchcraft."

Policemen from Layeni Police Division were said to have been contacted to prevent the woman from being lynched and they came and took her away.

Police sources told Vanguard that the woman would be released to any of her relations who shows up, explaining that the law does not recognise witchcraft.

"She has not committed any crime and will, therefore, be released to any member of her

family who shows up. We did not arrest her. We only prevented a likely jungle justice," the police source said.

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Woman says Disney implanted her with a chip

wvrecord.com

April 15, 2015 2:12 PM
By Kyla Asbury

CHARLESTON – A Chloe woman is suing Walt Disney Corporation after she claims a rubber chip was implanted in her body without her consent.

Julie Lynne Hooker claims a chop made of rubber material has been implanted inside of her without her knowledge or consent, according to a complaint filed last month in Kanawha Circuit Court.

Hooker claims through intelligence that she has gathered from those who operate the "d-chip," the main owner/sponsor of the chip is Walt Disney Corporation/Enterprise.

Hooker is seeking for monetary damages and for the chip to be removed from her body. She is representing herself.

The case is assigned to Circuit Judge Carrie Webster.

Kanawha Circuit Court case number: 15-C-451

This entry was posted in Issues, Kanawha County, News, Personal Injury and tagged Julie Lynne Hooker, Walt Disney Corporation. Bookmark the permalink.

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Woman who made canoe out of her VAGINA faces 2 years in jail

- 13:03, 15 April 2015
- By David Raven

Megumi Igarashi, from Japan, uploaded a nude selfie to a 3D printer for her bizarre creation. She is accused of distributing obscene materials

Megumi Igarashi

Bizarre: Megum Igarashi modeled a canoe on her vagina

A Japanese artist who made a 3D printed canoe from a selfie of her vagina is facing two years behind bars for 'distributing obscene materials'.

Megumi Igarashi uploaded nude pictures and sent the information to 30 people who offered to help pay for the bizarre creation called "p***y boat".

She hit headlines around the world last year after also making a vagina-shaped teddy bear and some figurines.

Reuters

Creative: Japanese artist Megumi Igarashi, known as Rokudenashiko

Igarashi, from Tyokyo. is alleged to have breached Japanese obscenity laws and police sources said that she had received nearly £6,000 for the images.

The 43-year-old faces up to two years in jail and fines of up to 2.5 million yen (US$20,900) if found guilty, according to ChannelNewsAsia.

Bizarre: Japanese artist Megumi Igarashi and her teddy bear creation

However, Igarashi, whose pseudonym Rokudenashiko means 'good for nothing girl' said that she did not believe the 3D data was obscene and she had not sent the pictures in return for money.

Igarashi's lawyer, Takashi Yamaguchi, was confident of winning the case.

He said: "Her means of expression don't incite desire at all. She is just using one part of the body that happens to be genitalia to express her own message."

Getty

Reuters

Japanese artist Megumi Igarashi: The 43-year-old faces up to two years in jail

On her blog Igarashi writes: "I make art pieces with my vagina, which I would rather call Manko(MK).

"I thought it was just funny to decorate my vagina and make into a diorama, but I was very surprised to see how upset people get when they see my works or even hear me say the word Manko.

"Even when a TV station asked me to be on their show, they wouldn't dare let me say DECO-MAN because 'MAN' is from the taboo word 'Manko'. Why did I start making these kind of art pieces? It's because I had never seen the vagina of others and I was too self-conscious of mine.

"I did not know what a vagina should look like at the same time, so I thought mine was abnormal.

"Manko and vagina, have been such a taboo in Japanese society. Penis, on the other hand, has been used in illustrations and has become a part of pop culture.

"But vagina has never been so cute. Vagina has been thought to be obscene because its been overly hidden; although it is just a part of a woman's body."

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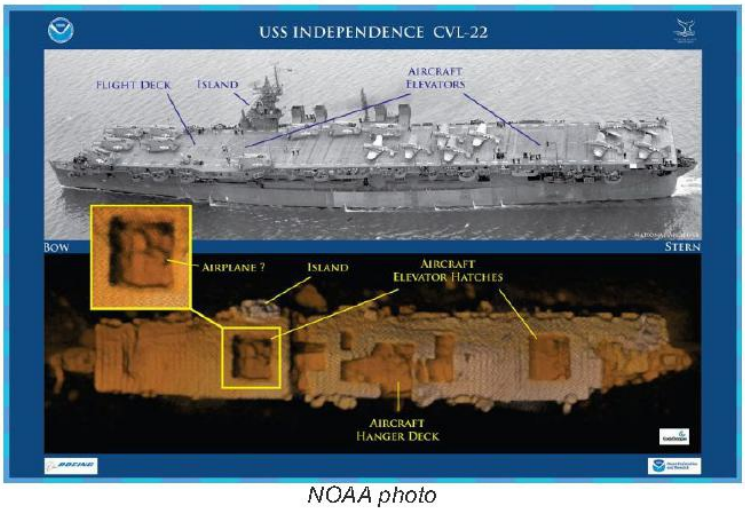
WWII aircraft carrier that survived atomic blast tests in remarkably good shape at bottom of Pacific

wtkr.com

WWII aircraft carrier that survived atomic blast tests in remarkably good shape at bottom of Pacific

Posted 1:21 pm, April 17, 2015, by Matt Knight and CNN WireUpdated at 01:22pm, April 17, 2015



NOAA photo

(CNN) — A former U.S. Navy aircraft carrier that survived a Japanese torpedo strike and was a massive guinea pig for two atomic bomb blasts looks remarkably intact at the bottom of the Pacific, according to federal researchers who surveyed the wreck last month with an underwater drone.

The USS Independence was scuttled in January 1951 during weapons testing near California's Farallon Islands. Although its location was confirmed by a survey in 2009, researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration went looking for it again in March as part of a project to map about 300 wrecks that lie in and around the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

"After 64 years on the seafloor, Independence sits on the bottom as if ready to launch its planes," mission leader James Delgado, the maritime heritage director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, said in a statement.

Indeed, sonar images show what looks to be an airplane on one of the elevators that took planes from the Independence's hangar deck to its flight deck. The ship sits upright with a slight list to starboard, according to NOAA.

NOAA's survey of the 623-foot-long, 11,000-ton carrier was conducted by the Echo Ranger, an 18.5-foot-long autonomous underwater vehicle provided by the Boeing Co. The Echo Ranger traveled 30 miles from its base in Half Moon Bay, California, and hovered 150 feet above the carrier, which lies 2,600 feet below the surface of the Pacific Ocean. The drone used a three-dimensional sonar system provided by Coda Octopus to get images that showed how well the warship has weathered 64 years in the deep.

"This ship fought a long, hard war in the Pacific and after the war was subjected to two atomic blasts that ripped through the ship. It is a reminder of the industrial might and skill of the 'greatest generation' that sent not only this ship, but their loved ones to war," Delgado said in the statement.

In its 20 years in the Navy, the ship played a role in some of the most important events of World War II, earning eight battle stars in the process, and the dawn of the nuclear age.

Independence was seriously damaged by Japanese torpedo planes during the Battle of Tarawa in late 1943. The ship returned to California for repairs and made it back across the Pacific by July 1944 to participate in the Battle of the Sibuyan Sea and the sinking of one of the Japanese Imperial Navy's biggest warships, the battleship Musashi. Later, in the Battle of Cape Engano, planes from the Independence were involved in the sinking of four Japanese aircraft carriers.

After the war, Independence became part of a fleet used to measure the effects of atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific on July 1, 1946. It sat just 560 yards from ground zero in the first test, a 23-kiloton air blast of a fission bomb similar to the one used over Nagasaki, Japan, a year earlier, according to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Twenty-four days later, Independence was 1,390 yards from the center of a second atomic blast — also a 23-kiloton device but an underwater detonation.

The ship was later brought back to California for nuclear decontamination before being sunk during the weapons training in 1951.

NOAA said no signs of radioactive contamination were noted during the survey of the sunken carrier last month.

The agency has no plans for further missions to the ship, according to the NOAA statement.

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WWII-era bomb found on college campus, detonated by military

yahoo.com

Associated Press

WRIGHTSTOWN, N.J. (AP) — The ground shook near a New Jersey military base as an explosives team detonated a 500-pound World War II-era bomb that had been found on the campus of a community college.

The unexploded ordnance was taken to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. It had been discovered Thursday during excavation for a new building at Middlesex County College, which is on the site of the former Raritan Arsenal.

When it was found, college officials evacuated construction workers. But classrooms and other campus facilities were far enough away that they were not affected.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Adam Usher, leader of the 87th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, says his group has up to three emergency calls a week. None had ever involved such as large bomb.

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Zebras Crossing! Animals Run Wild In City

sky.com

The trio escape from a nearby ranch before making their way to Brussels and running amok in front of shocked onlookers.

21:31, UK, Friday 17 April 2015

Video: Zebras Run Loose In City Centre

Three zebras were spotted running through the streets of Brussels in bizarre scenes caught on camera.

The trio had escaped from a ranch in nearby Vilvoorde before making their way to the city at some speed.

Student Ludovic Bytebier was in a building when he filmed two running in the road while a third chose the pavement.

They were on the loose for around an hour before being cornered and then captured.

Two police crews and one traffic team from Vilvoorde as well as reinforcements from Brussels were needed to seize them.

Local media reported four zebras initially escaped, with one immediately captured, but police were unable to confirm this.

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Saturday, April 11, 2015

Male organs of a rape suspect disappear during medical examination

A 21-year-old suspected hermaphrodite from Gokwe North, who is facing rape charges, is giving police a torrid time after his private parts "mysteriously changed" to female sex organs during medical examinations meant to ascertain the crime.

A hermaphrodite is a human being who has both male and female organs. The person only identified as Ruben and also known as Abigail, of Nembudziya Business Centre in Gokwe North, is being accused of having sexual intercourse with a girl, 13, on several occasions.

National police spokesperson Chief Superintendent Paul Nyathi confirmed that police were investigating a case in which a person suspected to have both sex organs was being accused of having sexual intercourse with a minor.

"I can confirm that police are investigating a case in which a 21-year-old person suspected to have both male and female sexual organs was being accused of having sex with a minor.

"The incident occurred on August 3 where a 13-year-old girl alleged that she visited the person and spent a night at the suspect's house and the two indulged in sex several times during the night.

"The matter came to light when the girl returned home on the following morning and was quizzed by her relatives for not returning home the previous night.

"The girl revealed that she had spent the night at the suspect's house and the two had sex," he said.

Chief Supt Nyathi said the matter was reported to the police leading to the suspect's arrest. He alleged that investigations established that the suspect had two sex organs. Chief Supt Nyathi said the suspect and the complainant went for medical tests where it emerged that the suspect now only had female genitals.

"We are still investigating the matter and we are inviting medical experts to find out what could have happened.

"The medical reports revealed that the girl had been sexually abused," he said.

Sources in Nembudzyia said the suspect uses two names Ruben and Abigail. They said he would use the name Ruben when interacting with women while he would use Abigail when interacting with men.

Chronicle is reliably informed that the suspect grew up with both sex organs. The police are allegedly in a dilemma after the matter could not be heard before Gokwe magistrates' courts

due to the circumstances surrounding the case.

Copyright 2011: Zimbabwe News Online

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Weird NJ: The Midget House of Brick

Weird NJ

app.com

It's not everyday that a house like this one goes up for sale––that's because there just aren't too many fully functional houses around that happen to be scaled down to one quarter size of normal building codes. But this year the legendary "Brick Midget House of Brick" was placed on the market by its owners.

Homeowner.jpg

Anna Jones stands outside the tiny house in Brick. Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

For Sale: *Charming cozy ranch style brick cottage in Brick, NJ, located on a spacious lot near the water. One bedroom, one bath, dine-in kitchen, living room with working brick fireplace, and an outdoor pool.* ***Note:*** *Prospective buyers should not exceed three and a half feet in height.*

It's not everyday that a house like this one goes up for sale––that's because there just aren't too many fully functional houses around that happen to be scaled down to one quarter size of normal building codes.

But this year the legendary "Brick Midget House of Brick" was placed on the market by its owners. And no, contrary to popular belief, they are not little people. Matt and Anna Jones purchased their corner lot home in Brick back in 2000, and located in back yard was something quite unique: a completely operational miniature house outfitted with all the amenities of their new full-sized home––running water, electricity, even a fireplace.

According to Anna, the cottage was built back in the 1960s by the former owners as a playhouse for their grandchildren. Inside was everything that you expect to find in a regular home, it was fully decorated with scaled down furniture: tables, chairs, a bed, wood paneled walls, tiled bathroom with shower, kitchen cabinets and even a tiny upright piano.

(Photo: Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

Another view of the kitchen.

At the time, the Joneses thought it would be fun to have the diminutive dwelling in their back yard, but as the years passed they came to realize that the odd little novelty, while an interesting curiosity, did have its drawbacks. As unbelievable as it may seem, Anna told Weird NJ, "Unfortunately, people come and steal from it. We had all these little wooden flowers in the window, and during the summer when we had the little windows open, people would stick their hands right in and I kept noticing flowers missing. They've stolen my front door. There was a hazing and the kids from one of the colleges kicked it in, took the door and left. I have a little replica soda table from the '50s in there and they stole one of the chairs."

The tiny house has long been a fixture in local lore and has attracted the curious from far and wide, many of whom are convinced that it is actually occupied by a family of little people.

"People think that midgets lived here and say that up at the Stop and Shop Plaza, there used to be a

The world's first head transplant surgery might be part of one giant marketing stunt

Dave Smith Apr. 22, 2015, 5:28 PM 31,540
Apr. 22, 2015, 5:28 PM

businessinsider.com

The world's first head transplant surgery might be part of one giant marketing stunt

Look familiar?

Konami, Dave Smith/Business Insider

Remember that recent story about the 30-year-old Russian man who volunteered to be the first person to have his head transplanted onto another human body? Well, it might be part of a big marketing hoax.

Dr. Sergio Canavero, the controversial real-life neurosurgeon from Turin, Italy, who has published more than 100 papers and plans to complete the first head transplant surgery in 2017, denies these claims.

Kotaku UK published a comprehensive breakdown on this conspiracy theory that suggests Dr. Canavero is actually helping market a new game called "Metal Gear Solid 5: The Phantom Pain."

Here's the lineup of evidence that suggests this is the case:

- As the Kotaku UK report points out, it all started with a post on the video game forum NeoGAF, which showed off the uncanny similarities between Canavero and a character from the game.

NeoGAF

- Valery Spiridonov, the 30-year-old volunteer who is allegedly getting the transplant, is a CG artist and a game development supervisor.
- Dr. Canavero held his TED Talk in Cyprus, where the hospital scene in "Metal Gear Solid 5" allegedly plays out.
- TED Limassol, where Canavero gave his TED Talk, is an anagram for "Solid Metals."
- The head transplant project is called "HEAVEN," which is also a reference to the bad guys in the "Metal Gear Solid" series.
- Dr. Canavero has written many articles on the phenomenon called "phantom pain," which is also the subtitle of the next "Metal Gear Solid" game.

And here's the kicker:

- Hideo Kojima, who heads up the "Metal Gear Solid" franchise, tweeted about his next project in 2010: "The next project will challenge a certain type of taboo. If I mess up, I'll probably have to leave the industry. However, I don't want to pass by avoiding that. I turn 47 this year. It's been 24 years since I started making games. Today, I got an ally who would happily support me in that risk. Although it's just one person. For a start, it's good."

This makes it sound like Kojima was able to persuade Dr. Canavero to join his venture — to help leverage his authority as a famous doctor and neurosurgeon to promote "Metal Gear Solid 5" with a viral marketing stunt.

TheWhy

Dr. Canavero told Kotaku UK that he "doesn't understand why they used him as a template for that character without asking him permission." When asked about his resemblance to the 3D character from the game, Dr. Canavero could only guess:

"One of the sponsors [at TED] was coincidentally a game developer. Maybe some people there… I don't know… maybe they recorded the thing from certain angles, maybe the cameras were set up in the right spots… I do not know. It's just a hypothesis, but maybe it's not too farfetched."

When Kotaku's Gabriele Galliani questioned the plausibility of this, Dr. Canavero interrupted with what could be the giveaway:

"To be completely honest with you: This isn't such a bad thing. Since my project requires a lot of money, Mr. Kojima will be able to say he had a part in HEAVEN [the name of his head transplant procedure] despite the fact that he probably never intended to."

In other words, it sounds like Dr. Canavero is in fact a real doctor who happened to strike a cross-promotional deal with Kojima and his firm, Konami: He and Spiridonov promote the head transplant surgery, which in turn promotes the game. We still have yet to confirm these findings, but there is a ton of evidence pointing in this direction.

Also worth noting: This hoax sounds like it's right out of Kojima's playbook. Hideo Kojima is known for deceiving his audiences before revealing a major game he's working on. Last year, he didn't simply unveil the next big "Silent Hill" game: He created a fake game studio and released a completely unrelated game, that, when played to its completion, revealed that it was just a teaser for Kojima's next project.

Kojima pulled a similar bait and switch with the reveal to "Metal Gear Solid 5," where he created a fake game studio and an unknown developer named "Joakim Mogren." He later

revealed the developer to be "a Swedish guy."

We've reached out to Konami, as well as Dr. Canavero, and we'll update this story if we hear back. Until then, the evidence from Kotaku UK and NeoGAF is absolutely worth your eyes.

Comments

pushbuttonchimpon Apr 22, 8:18 PM said:
Really?
Batzion Apr 22, 9:07 PM said:
V has come to.

#AHIDEOKOJIMAGAME
Crazyface29on Apr 23, 1:25 AM said:
I like how out of both these articles nobody (Kotaku and this one) nobody has taken the liberty to research who the model/mo-cap actor for the doctor in MGSV. And if you want to know it's an actor by the name of Ian Moore in Japan, Kojima said this shortly after the first reveal of MGSV back in 2012.

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Christian bakers blame Satan when crowdfunding to pay for discrimination fine gets spiked

rawstory.com

Christian bakers blame Satan when crowdfunding to pay for discrimination fine gets spiked

Christian bakers blame Satan when crowdfunding to pay for discrimination fine gets spiked

Jin Zhao 25 Apr 2015 at 21:50 ET

GoFundMe shut down a fundraiser created by anti-gay Christian bakers in Oregon after they raised approximately $110,000 to pay for a court ordered fine, the Gaily Grind reports.

Aaron and Melissa Klein, the owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, were fined $135,000 on Friday by an Oregon court because they refused to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple who planned on tying the knot.

Following the verdict, the bakers set up a GoFundMe page and shared the link with their Facebook friends and followers. In just four hours, the campaign raised approximately $20,000. Within a day — as the total climbed to nearly $110,000 — GoFundMe canceled it, saying that the fundraiser violated Oregon law and was therefore in violation of the website's Terms and Conditions.

"The money raised thus far will still be made available for withdrawal," said GoFundMe in a statement.

"While a different campaign was recently permitted for a pizzeria in Indiana, no laws were violated and the campaign remained live. However, the subjects of the 'Support Sweet Cakes By Melissa' campaign have been formally charged by local authorities and found to be in violation of Oregon state law concerning discriminatory acts. Accordingly, the campaign has been disabled."

The pizzeria in Indiana raised $840,000 on GoFundMe after the owners came under fire on social media for making a public statement that they would not cater gay weddings.

The Kleins, however, did not seem to hold a grudge against the fundraising website. Rather, they blame Satan.

"Evidently Go fund me [sic] has shut down our Go fund me [sic] page and will not let us raise any money. Satan's really at work but I know our God has a plan and wins in the end!," they said in a statement posted on their Facebook page.

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Guests celebrating anniversary of Waterloo told not to gloat

19:06 EST, 25 April 2015

dailymail.co.uk

- **Guests attending Battle of Waterloo anniversary service told not to gloat**
- **Invitations to the event said it must not be seen as 'triumphalist'**
- **The move was criticised by politicians as 'absurd' political correctness**

By Brendan Carlin for The Mail on Sunday

Defeated: Napoleon (illustrated) lost at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

Guests attending a service in London to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo have been told not to act in a 'triumphalist' way – to avoid upsetting the French.

Invitations to the service at St Paul's Cathedral advise that it will avoid glorifying the Duke of Wellington's historic victory over Napoleon in 1815.

But last night the move was criticised by politicians, who said it 'took political correctness to an absurd new degree'.

The invitation to the Waterloo 200 event says: 'The service, although related to a military victory, is not in any way glorifying war, nor must it be seen as triumphalist.'

Instead, the service – to be attended by members of the Royal Family and senior political and military figures – will focus on the 'pan-European' implications of the battle and the century of peace that followed. Conservative Jacob Rees-Mogg, who is bidding to be re-elected as a Somerset MP, said: 'Waterloo was a triumph of good versus evil. Napoleon was responsible for between three million and 6.5 million deaths.

'Two hundred years on, it is ridiculous to spare the blushes of the French by not celebrating the battle for what it was. What next? Will we ask France to apologise for the Battle of Hastings?'

The service of commemoration, to take place on the 200th anniversary of Waterloo on June 18, will be the centrepiece of a series of events to mark the battle.

Waterloo 200 chairman, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, defended the 'no triumphalism' theme.

Asked if it looked as though the service was designed to avoid embarrassing the French, he said: 'Some people may read it like that but it's not how we look at it.'

He added that the enemy at Waterloo was Napoleon – not France as such. The commemoration was highlighting the effect of the battle on Europe, not the military campaign

or the battle itself.

'What Waterloo brought in was an extended period of peace in Europe after a particularly horrible 20 years of war,' Sir Evelyn said.

'The commemoration looks forward to the European harmony that followed it.'

Colin Brown, author of Scum Of The Earth, a new book about Waterloo, said Wellington would not have objected to the non-triumphalist tone.

He added: 'The Duke strongly believed in the restoration of the status quo after the battle, including the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in France.'

The commemoration was highlighting the effect of the battle (illustrated) on Europe, organisers said

Comments (

Eyes Open, Florida USA, 51 minutes ago

Defeating the French has gotten easier since then.

Old Robert, Worcester UK, 11 hours ago

"Gloat".....? There is nothng wrong with being GRATEFUL that Britain won, but the one thing that sticks in my mind is what Wellington himself said in the immediate aftermath..... "Next to a battle lost, the saddest thing is a battle won..." Many brave men on both sides died that day - nothing there that I or any other ex-soldier would "gloat" about.

Cosmos, Kent, United Kingdom, 11 hours ago

The easiest way to upset the French is being English.

ken, south london, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

And upsetting the French is the DUTY of every Englishman and woman. Its in our genes, and the Frenchies expect it.

scribble, london, United Kingdom, 20 hours ago

Disgraceful and ignorant advice. Waterloo was a 'close run thing' according Wellington, and it was also a bloodbath with well over 50,000 dead and injured on the battlefield so anyone gloating would only demonstrate their own ignorance of the facts of the battle. This is yet another example of how we are unable to deal with today's problems because of political correctness.

Heatherbelle, Epsom, 23 hours ago

Go on, be triumphant!

Andy Salter, Bournemouth, United Kingdom, 17 hours ago

they guys attending fought hard at Waterloo and have every right to gloat, they probably won't live to see then next celebration, what with all of them being well over 200 years old.

Brave Heart, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

We won, they lost, Napoleon was lucky to escape with his life as for PC stuff em!

Andy Salter, Bournemouth, United Kingdom, 17 hours ago

We? was you also there fighting? They should be gloating because non of them had anything to do with the victory.

My Pointless Views, Portsmouth, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

Is there anything we can say these days that doesn't run the risk of upsetting or offending someone or other ?

Ian MacFarlane, St Petersburg FL USA, 1 day ago

Century of peace that followed the victory at Waterloo? Really? How about the Crimea War? The Boer War, the various colonial wars and rebellion suppressions?

My Pointless Views, Portsmouth, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

I guess they meant to peace in Europe.

JON, Paris, 1 day ago

What is good about the celebrations is that will be on TV and in newspapers for weeks preceding the event so at last 80% of the British public will realise that the battle took place in Belgium and not at the railway station.

Hazura Jane, Larkspur California US, United States, 1 day ago

Mon Dieu.

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How to Spot a Terrible Coven

April 26, 2015

patheos.com

How to Spot a Terrible Coven

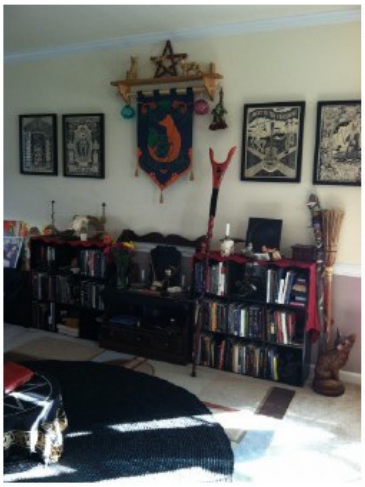
by Thorn Mooney Leave a Comment

Any time I write about ritual nudity, conversation about the downsides of group work always ensues. Nudity and sexuality are touchy subjects because there's a lot of room for abuse, power-tripping, etc. When I write as a proponent of skyclad practice (and magical sexiness generally)—when I describe the emotional and magical benefits within my own tradition and private practice—it's not to dismiss the reality that some groups and individuals are just terrible. "Terrible" includes a variety of infractions, spanning the mildly irritating to holy-shit-call-the-police. Because of this reality, I present to you a guide that will hopefully make navigating things a little bit easier:

Everyone's heard horror stories about what can happen to hapless seekers who stumble into unscrupulous teachers and covens. Unfortunately, Pagan, witch, and other occult communities sometimes act as a refuge for the unsavory. Our collective openness to the marginalized (because of our own experiences being marginalized) and our penchant for tolerance (because of our own desires for tolerance) mean that we're hesitant to exclude. On more than one occasion I've witnessed predatory interlopers show up at open circles or festivals for the sake of harassing young women. More common are the self-appointed Occult Adepts™ and Witch Queens™ advertizing online (and sometimes in the flesh) for students—Wiccan initiations for the low-low price of $200!—who don't have the credentials or experience they claim. Sometimes they're out for your money, but most of the time they're just out for the power that being a high priest or priestess appears to command. At best, they waste your time. At worst (well, one version of worst), they leave you with long-term scarring that causes you to reject magical communities in the future.

A scene from the Covenstead. [Framed art by Madame Talbot's Victorian Lowbrow, available at www.madametalbot.com]

The good news is that most leaders and groups aren't actively working to do you any serious harm. Even the crappy ones are usually just the result of disorganization, relatively mild emotional or financial instability, and the drama that naturally ensues when a bunch of people with quirky personalities opt to share space. People are jerks just by virtue of being people, not because they're necessarily scheming. When you add magic, pageantry, and hierarchy to



the mix, things can become particularly flammable.

The rest of the good news is that problem groups and people are often fairly easy to spot and avoid. You can generally rely on the sort of common sense things that you apply to other social situations:

• If someone sketches you out on a visceral level, avoid them. You don't have to give people the benefit of the doubt just because they're Pagan and you think Pagans are supposed to be gentler and kinder than the world at large. Pagans are human beings, and sometimes human beings are awful. Fact.

• All of the stranger danger stuff that you learned growing up still applies in Pagan spaces. When meeting someone for the first time, proceed with caution. Ask if you can bring a friend and be sure to meet in a public space. Know the area. Fill your gas tank. Make sure someone else knows where you're going. Be moderate with alcohol (etc.). Don't overshare personal details. It's not paranoia; it's smart. Other reasonable people won't be offended by your precaution.

• Understand that "credentials" and "experience" are subjective. There's no witch council (again) handing out membership cards or administering aptitude tests. Degrees and titles are only actually relevant within the contexts of the traditions that value them (and it's perfectly acceptable to ask around for a vouch or character reference within those traditions and wider communities). Anyone can tack letters after their name or purport to be a high priestess, a third degree, an adept, a hereditary witch, or whatever else. If someone strikes you as incompetent or unethical, it doesn't really matter what titles they have (whether or not they're legitimate) and where they've come from.

• Google is your friend. Books are even better friends. Other people in your wider communities are spectacular friends. If you're interested in a particular tradition, try to learn as much about it as possible before you start talking to potential groups. Then, when you meet an allegedly Gardnerian coven that demands that you fork over cash for an initiation, you can respond with the appropriate "hell no" and go about your day. If you can come up with a general idea of what the customs and expectations for a particular tradition are, you can be appropriately suspicious when confronted with something that deviates wildly.

• Use those same Google skills to check out the people in your potential group. You would be amazed what can turn up (just for fun, Google your own e-mail address and name and see what happens).

• Drama is largely optional. If you find that the group or teacher in question is constantly embroiled in some kind of public social turmoil, consider this a red flag. If lots of people are quick to say negative things, you hear wild stories about various and sundry misdeeds, or their previous groups have blown up, proceed with caution. Is there lots of passive-aggressive vaguery on their website (including Facebook) about other individuals or groups? Do people sigh and roll their eyes when you mention them? These are warning signs.

circus." Anna told us. "My son was just at a dentist's office the other day up in Shrewsbury and when he told the hygienist that he was from Brick she said she had friends that just moved here and that they lived in a neighborhood where there were midgets, because they saw this little house. You see, people don't think it's my house, because it's on its own lot. So they just think it's a separate entity."

(Photo: Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

A bedroom inside the tiny house.

We asked Anna how her children enjoyed having the miniature abode in their back yard and if they played in it when they were growing up.

"We wanted them to, but I didn't think it was safe for them because I never knew what was in there from the night before."

She says that late night visitations by unwelcome guests have not been uncommon and the police have even been called buy neighbors to break up parties that were going on on the property unbeknownst to the Joneses.

"We would find used condoms in there, someone threw a Jack Daniels bottle through the front window. That costs $400 every time that gets broken and needs to be replaced. Most of the people that come have all good intentions—they want to take a picture, and I don't have a problem with that. But then you get the ones that have to go that extra step and steal something from in there. The ones that are destructive are the ones that ruin it for the ones that are honest."

(Photo: Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

The bathroom in the tiny house.

So this year the Joneses decided to test the waters of the real estate market and see if they could sell the unique little domicile.

"I can't afford to keep it up." Anna lamented. "When Sandy hit this was all under water. We had $78,000 of damage in our house. I can't subdivide the lot, so if somebody wanted to buy this, they'd have to excavate it and pick it up and take it. So if some eccentric person has nothing better to do with their money..."

Sandy was not kind to the smaller house either and much of the interior was damaged. The lagoon located just across the street rose and swept right through the playhouse, buckling walls and waterlogging the tiny furniture. Now dead leaves and other debris litter the wall-to-wall carpeted floors. Still, the Joneses do take the time and effort to decorate the little house for most holidays, Halloween and Christmas especially. But Anna admits, "We've scaled down a lot, we used to do so much more, but they'd steal it, they'd just take it. It's sad, because they don't respect our property."

The shower inside the tiny home.

Though not currently listed with any realtors, Anna has posted the sale on her Facebook page and has had some interested parties inquire about it.

"So what's the asking price?" We wondered.

"We're not sure, we haven't really come up with a concrete number yet. I listed it on one of those garage

• Look for leaders that more or less have their lives in order. We're still just people, so it's unreasonable to look for perfection, but the folks you trust with your spiritual and/or magical development should be relatively capable and mature. Is their home safe and livable? Are their children being properly cared for? Are they reasonably employed and stable? Are they mean to the dog or rude to the waiter?

• Be very wary of any group that offers you initiation or dedication immediately. Sometimes there are circumstances that allow for this (I guess), but this is almost always a red flag. Vetting for initiation is a process. Training is a process. Learning a tradition is a process. Becoming an effective high priestess or high priest is a *long* process. If it's offered to you instantly, it's almost surely not worth having.

• Becoming a student in a coven or tradition does not require the sacrifice of your adulthood or the agency that entails. Remind yourself that you retain the right to say no. Just like sex, it is your right to withdraw consent at any moment. In abusive relationships, one often loses agency slowly. One day you wake up and realize that you don't remember how to say no, and aren't even sure if you want to because of what might happen. If your life ever even remotely hints of this sort of scenario, get help and get out as soon as possible.

Use your good sense. Take your time. You're better off being alone than joining a coven just because it's the only one available. Joining a coven should never be an emergency situation. Remember: you're interviewing them just as they're interviewing you. You're allowed to fire them.

Filed Under: Coven Life, Practical Stuff Tagged With: covens, groups, paganism, seeking, wicca, witchcraft Leave a Comment

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About Thorn Mooney

Thorn Mooney is a Gardnerian high priestess operating in Charlotte, NC. A practitioner of various kinds of witchcraft since adolescence, she blogs about traditional Craft, coven life, contemporary Pagan studies, and being Pagan in the American South. Thorn holds an MA in religious studies and works as a university lecturer, musician, and tarot reader.

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In Reversal, Pearl Harbor Unknowns to Be Exhumed

Apr 25

history.com

April 22, 2015

In Reversal, Pearl Harbor Unknowns to Be Exhumed

By Christopher Klein

For decades, the remains of nearly 400 unidentified sailors and marines killed aboard USS Oklahoma during the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 have been buried in unmarked graves in a Honolulu cemetery. Now, in a policy reversal, the U.S. Department of Defense has announced it will exhume and attempt to identify the unknowns.

USS Oklahoma near Hawaii, September 1940 (Credit: Carl Mydans/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images)

The demise of USS Oklahoma took mere moments. Less than 15 minutes after the first Japanese bombs and torpedoes tore into it on December 7, 1941, the gray battleship had rolled over, its masts touching the murky bottom of Pearl Harbor and its capsized keel exposed above the surface.

While some of USS Oklahoma's crew escaped to the adjacent USS Maryland, a total of 429 sailors and marines aboard the battleship perished in the attack—a Pearl Harbor death toll that trailed only that of the 1,177 who died aboard USS Arizona. Compounding the losses for the victims' families, few of them had any bodies to bury. During the two-year salvage operation to raise the tattered battleship, only 35 crewmembers were positively identified and buried. The remains of up to 388 unknown sailors and marines were initially interred in two Hawaiian cemeteries before being reburied in 1950 in Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known informally as the "Punchbowl Cemetery." The unknowns are buried in 61 caskets at 45 gravesites.

Salvage efforts on USS Oklahoma, 1943 (Credit: NARA)

For decades, as gravestones etched with the names of victims rested above empty tombs across the country, Pearl Harbor survivor Ray Emory continued his dogged efforts to identify the victims. According to Stars and Stripes, Emory's investigation led to the discovery that remains of 27 USS Oklahoma sailors listed as unknown had actually been identified in 1949 based on their dental records as they were being processed for reburial, but an anthropologist working with the military did not sign off on the identification because they lacked the full set of remains. Instead of returning partial remains to families, the 27 were interred as unknowns in five caskets buried in Punchbowl Cemetery. Prompted by Emory, the military exhumed one of those caskets and identified five sailors, who were returned to their families. The partial remains of up to 100 others might have been present in the casket as well, the military reported.

Attack on Pearl Harbor (Video)

Families of sailors who died aboard USS Oklahoma have pushed for the remains to be exhumed and identified, but as recently as last May the U.S. Navy sent a letter to families outlining its opposition because it did not wish to disturb the sanctity of the graves, according to Stars and Stripes. A bipartisan group of 15 senators sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Defense pushing for the caskets to be exhumed, and last week the Pentagon finally agreed, citing recent advances in forensic technology and the assistance of family members in providing genealogical information.

"Analysis of all available evidence indicates that most Oklahoma crew members could be identified individually if the caskets associated with the ship were disinterred," stated a memorandum issued by Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work on April 14. The Department of Defense reported that over the last 12 years it has collected and analyzed DNA from 84 percent of applicable USS Oklahoma family members as well as 90 percent of medical and dental records from the crew of USS Oklahoma.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory in Hawaii will exhume and identify the remains. DPAA spokeswoman Lieutenant Colonel Melinda Morgan told Stars and Stripes that the exhumations are expected begin in three to six weeks. The military hopes to have the identification work completed within the next five years.

Gravestone identifying it as the resting place of seven unknowns from USS Oklahoma. (Credit: AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy)

In addition to the specific measures associated with USS Oklahoma, Work announced the immediate implementation of a broader disinterment policy for identifications at other permanent U.S. cemeteries. In cases of commingled remains, research must indicate that at least 60 percent of the service members can be individually identified, and in the case of individual unknowns, the threshold for the likelihood of identification is 50 percent. "To meet these thresholds," Work reported, "DoD must conduct the research necessary to determine the list of possible missing service members who could be among the unknowns, collect the relevant family reference samples for comparison with any DNA obtained from sampling the remains, obtain the necessary antemortem medical and dental records, and have the scientific and technological ability and capacity to identify the personnel in a timely manner." The policy, however, does not apply to unaccounted-for service members lost as sea or entombed in ships that are national memorials, such as the USS Arizona victims.

The Pentagon has pledged that service members who can be identified will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors or reinterred at the Punchbowl Cemetery in individual plots with their own markers, if families so desire.

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Meet The Head Transplant Doctor at The Centre of a Metal Gear Solid Conspiracy

kotaku.co.uk

Meet The Head Transplant Doctor at The Centre of a Metal Gear Solid Conspiracy

By Kotaku on 22 Apr 2015 at 8:58AM22 Apr 2015

by Gabriel Galliani

For almost a week now, some parts of the gaming internet have been going nuts over the visual similarities between the doctor that features in the trailer for *Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain*, and the controversial real-live Dr Sergio Canavero, the neurosurgeon who recently found sudden fame when he claimed that he was ready and able to perform the first human head transplant in medical history. He's even found a prospective patient, a Russian called Valery Spirodonov, who suffers from a terminal muscle-wasting disease.

It all started with a simple post on gaming forum NeoGAF, showing this photo:

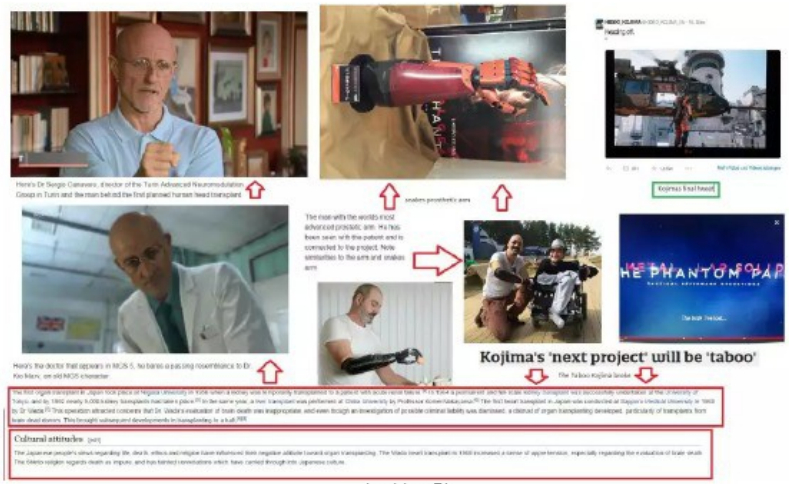
Screen Shot 2015-04-22 at 15.38.20

It spawned a wild chain of speculation spanning hundreds of different websites and message boards. First, posters latched onto the fact that Canavero's head-transplant project is called HEAVEN. Then someone else remembered an old Kojima quote that stated: "The next project will challenge a certain type of taboo, if I mess up, I'll probably have to leave the industry. However, I don't want to pass by avoiding that. I turn 47 this year. It's been 24 years since I started making games. Today, I got an ally who would happily support me in that risk. Although it's just one person. For a start, it's good."

Some people noticed that he Dr. Canavero has written several articles on the phenomenon of phantom pain. Then there was speculation that Snake has undergone a head transplant on MGSV, or that Snake's scar vaguely resembles the logo in the background of Cavanero's TED talk... all sorts. It's genuinely crazy. The below infographic from imgur gives you an idea:

Source: imgur

Some of these connections that people were making were pretty good. Others were more like shooting at the wall and then painting a target around the hole: like the suggestion that Dr. Canavero might even not be a real doctor, but just somebody hired for the craziest viral marketing campaign ever. Mr Canavero is indeed a real doctor who's published more than a hundred papers, and is actually a pretty familiar face here in Italy. In 2008 he managed to wake a patient from a vegetative coma using a technique of his own invention. This was widely reported in all the major newspapers in my country because it happened right in the middle of a chain of events involving Piergiorgio Welby and Eluana Englaro, two of the most-discussed euthanasia cases of that time.



LmUee5k

To be clear: if this were all some crazy marketing plan, that would mean that Canavero had been taking the piss out of the entire world, including the press and the whole medical community, for over a decade. He would hardly be the world's first fake doctor, but to plan all of that for the sake of marketing a video game? That's too fucked-up to believe. Even by Kojima's standards. But just to be sure, I called him up.

On the other end of the phone I found an extremely friendly person who immediately thanked me for contacting him. During our conversation, Dr. Canavero told me that he was shocked by how similar to him the *Metal Gear Solid* character in the videos was, from his appearance right down to the mannerisms.

Screen Shot 2015-04-22 at 16.16.48

From the NeoGAF thread.

Random internet people have been trying to contact Dr. Cavanero for days; one Redditor managed to get a single line of text from him. He told me that he has never been in any kind of contact with Konami or Kojima, that he had never even heard of them before all of this happened and he doesn't understand why they used him as a template for that character without asking him permission. I pointed out his resemblance to the actor from whom Konami actually did the scanning for the three-dimensional model, but he tells me that his lawyer has suggested something different that involves a conference held in Cyprus:

"One of the sponsors was coincidentally a game developer. Maybe some people there...I don't know...maybe they recorded the thing from certain angles, maybe the cameras were set up in the right spots... I do not know. It's just a hypothesis, but maybe it's not too far-fetched."

I pointed it out that this seemed rather unlikely and that there was probably a simpler explanation, but he interrupted me:

"To be completely honest with you: this isn't such a bad thing. Since my project requires a lot of money, Mr.Kojima will be able to say he had a part in HEAVEN [the name of his head transplant procedure] despite the fact that he probably never intended to."

Dr. Canavero isn't just surprised by all this, but actually rather put out; he's even thinking of suing Konami over it. "I went to the Polizia Postale [the authority in charge of this kind of thing here in Italy] and filed a complaint towards Mr.Kojima. There is also a Twitter account that is not mine, so I reported this to the Police too, they will now investigate both the matters. In the meantime my lawyer is sending a letter to the Japanese company [Konami] to ask for compensation [for using my image without permission]."

He mentioned this more than a few times during our phonecall. He also seemed very interested in how

much *Metal Gear Solid V* might be worth. At one point, suddenly asked me: "By the way, do you know how much this game is going to cost? And how many copies will it sell?" When I estimated that it'll sell maybe 4 million units at 60 euros a pop, he started laughing.

"Wow!!! Sixty Euros? Multiplied by 4 or 5 MILLION? That would cover the whole operation for Valery and then some! We're talking about an insane amount of money!"

Towards the end of the call we talked a lot about his HEAVEN project. Dr. Canavero really is one of the most passionate people I've ever talked to. He couldn't wait to explain things to me – things that I'm far too medically uneducated to understand. I definitely got the impression that he's rather enjoying this sudden burst of popularity. I asked him if he thought the whole situation had already affected his image or had any repercussions.

"It's just surprising that despite having been around the world, speaking at more than 300 medical conferences about what could be the biggest medical achievement in history, I feel like now I'm at the peak of my popularity thanks to a video game...a video game I wasn't even involved in to begin with."

Gabriel Galliani is an Italian journalist who writes for Official PlayStation Magazine, Byte Size Impressions, and more. Find him on Twitter.

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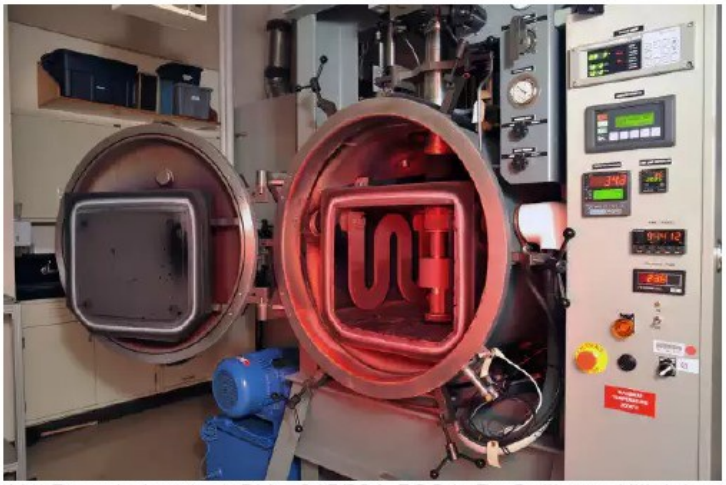
Navy researchers make bulletproof glass out of clay

engadget.com

by **Andrew Tarantola** | @terrortola | April 24th 2015 at 7:19 pm April 24th 2015 7:19 pm

The US Naval Research Laboratory announced a major breakthrough in materials science on Thursday. After decades of research and development, the NRL has created a transparent, bulletproof material that can be molded into virtually any shape. This material, known as Spinel, is made from a synthetic powdered clay that is heated and pressed under vacuum (aka sintered) into transparent sheets. "Spinel is actually a mineral, it's magnesium aluminate," Dr. Jas Sanghera, who leads the research, said in a statement. "The advantage is it's so much tougher, stronger, harder than glass. It provides better protection in more hostile environments -- so it can withstand sand and rain erosion."



Hot Press Laboratory; Bldg. 215/224; POC is Dr. Guillermo Villalobos of Code 5622. This hot press, located in Optical Sciences Code 5620, can achieve temperatures of 2000Â°C and pressures of up to 50 Tons.

What's really cool is that unlike most forms of commercially available bulletproof glass -- which is formed by pressing alternating layers of glass and plastic sheeting together -- Spinel doesn't block the infrared wavelength of light. That means that this stuff can protect a UAV's surveillance camera or the lens of a HEL-MD laser without hindering the device's operation. Plus, Spinel weighs just a fraction of a modern bulletproof pane. "If you replaced that [pane] with spinel, you'd reduce the weight by a factor of two or more," Sanghera continued. The NRL now plans to share the Spinel production process with the rest of the defense industry.

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New Jersey Ghost: 'Parkway Phantom' Haunts New Jersey's Famous Garden State Parkway

inquisitr.com

Posted in: Odd News Posted: April 26, 2015

New Jersey Ghost: 'Parkway Phantom' Haunts New Jersey's Famous Garden State Parkway

If you're ever taking a nighttime drive along New Jersey's Garden State Parkway, keep your eyes peeled as you approach Exit 82, and with any luck — or maybe lack of it — you'll see one of New Jersey's most often seen ghosts, the "Parkway Phantom."

According to *Asbury Park Press*, many of New Jersey's "most notable ghosts," such as the Parkway Phantom, are said to haunt the realms of New Jersey's roads and highways,

likely because that's where the human vessel the ghost once occupied experienced some dire trauma, leaving its body no longer working or, in other words, dead.

New Jersey motorists have been reporting roadside apparitions and highway ghosts like the Parkway Phantom for decades, the ghosts apparently having no choice but to wander the area of road where their death occurred. Perhaps they don't realize, or understand, that their turn at life has come to a traumatic halt, and no matter how much they wave and try to flag down the help of passing New Jersey motorists, their transition to ghost has put hope out of reach.

Such is the seeming situation for the Parkway Phantom, a roadside apparition that witnesses describe as being "very tall with a long topcoat belted at the waist."

New Jersey motorists that witness the Parkway Phantom all generally report a particular characteristic of the ghost, that he waves his arms "synchronously," that is he holds them up and bends them both at the elbow, in a display that some describe as "looking like a strange football cheer."

Any feedback on the Parkway Phantom from New Jersey State Police is pretty much non-existent, but according to *Asbury Park Press*, one former New Jersey state trooper did go so far as to say that the area where the Parkway Phantom is seen has also been the site of countless car accidents and automobile-related deaths over the years.

Some of those who have witnessed the Parkway Phantom personally, and other New Jersey highway ghosts, shared their stories with *Weird NJ.*

Among those with bizarre ghost stories about the Parkway Phantom, or another apparition very much like him, is a paramedic who has had the grim task of responding to fatal car wrecks along the New Jersey highway that the Parkway Phantom is said to haunt.

The paramedic reports that he and his team responded on a rainy night to a man being hit while he was walking down the highway, after his car broke down. The man was hit so hard that he was thrown off into the woods, and it was so dark and rainy that the paramedics couldn't find him right away when they arrived.

Ultimately, the man was found, but unfortunately he died, and when the same paramedic crew was passing the same spot weeks later, suddenly there appeared a man waving them down. When they turned around and went back to the spot, the man was gone, but the whole paramedic crew took note that it was the exact same place where the man had just been hit and killed a few weeks before.

Is this proof of the Parkway Phantom? Perhaps not by itself, but three other paramedic crews have experienced the same exact scenario, with the ghostly man waving them down in the same area before disappearing, making the Parkway Phantom, at the least, a pretty eerie and consistent coincidence.

But the Parkway Phantom isn't just a recent ghost phenomenon in New Jersey. In fact people

(Photo: Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

sale auction sites and set the starting bid at $10,000. But people have to understand that to excavate it and move it is not going to be cheap. Water lines have to be capped, because there is running water to it. I'm not an engineer, so I'm not sure of all that that would entail."

But unlike the house itself, the sum will not be a small one, because as Anna tells us, "This is America, and I have bills to pay!"

(Photo: Photo Credit: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

The fireplace in the tiny home.

"Aren't you going to miss it if it does sell?" We asked. Without a second's hesitation, Anna responded, "Absolutely not. I haven't been in there in a while because Hurricane Sandy went in there for me, so it was filled with water. Now I don't go in there ...Too many bugs."

The preceding article is an excerpt from the latest issue of Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which is now available on newsstands throughout the state and on the web at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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have been reporting a Parkway Phantom attempting to cross the road while waving his arms, near exit 82 on Route 37 in Toms River since the New Jersey Garden State Parkway opened in 1955.

A female version of the Parkway Phantom was reported in '59 or '60 according to another *Weird NJ* contributor. This female ghost wasn't wearing any coat though, like the Parkway Phantom, but was instead floating around over the Garden State Parkway *naked*. A huge crowd showed up to see the nude, female version of the Parkway Phantom, but as usual, highway ghosts don't tend to hang around waiting for the rubber-neckers.

So again, if you're ever passing through the area and see the Parkway Phantom waving you down, it's probably best not to stop, but you at least might wave back.

[Image by Mark Moran, *Weird NJ*]

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Pensioner burns to death in car fire at west London cemetery

Published: 26 April 2015

standard.co.uk

Fire: Greenford Cemetery (Picture: Google Street View)

A pensioner burned to death in a car fire at a west London cemetery, police have said.

The 80-year-old man was killed as flames sparked inside the silver BMW he had parked at Greenford Cemetery moments before.

Fire crews were called to tackle the blaze on Windmill Lane, Greenford, at about 2.20pm on Wednesday but the man died at the scene, a spokesman for Scotland Yard said today.

Detectives are not treating the fire as suspicious but officers from the Met's Homicide and Major Crime Command are investigating, he added.

The victim's name has not yet been released by police but his next of kin have been informed.

Witnesses were today asked to contact detectives as police launched an appeal over the death.

Anyone with information can contact police on 020 8358 0013 or via 101 quoting ref: CAD 4637/22April.

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Rescue dogs get married in Glastonbury

April 25th 2015

centralsomersetgazette.co.uk

By Central Somerset Gazette | Posted: April 25, 2015

Dog Wedding in Glastonbury Pink Ali and Anoushka and John Awen and Pagan

TWO rescue dogs have marked their love for each other after celebrating their pawfasting in Glastonbury.

Pagan, a labrador, and Anoushka, an Alaskan malamute, marked their big day surrounded by friends and family in the shop Maharanee's Palace Boutique, at the back of Gothic Image.

John Awen, Pagan's owner, said: "Anoushka was in season about three or four weeks ago and we are hoping she is pregnant. So I joked and said it would be like a shotgun wedding – then we decided to hold a pawfasting.

"I am probably the first druid to do a pawfasting.

"They really were so well behaved and they loved the attention.

"They were absolutely amazing, they were incredible.

"The dogs are just inseparable. If Pagan is not about Anoushka cries. They snuggle in together all the time."

Both Pagan, six, and Anoushka, who is thought to be around seven and owned by John's partner Pink Ali, were very good on the day and during the rehearsal.

"They didn't get dressed just once, they had to get changed a few times and they got dressed for a practice run the night before," said John, 45, of Wells.

"They were the stars of the day."

Around 30 people turned up to watch the ceremony which was advertised throughout the town and on social media, but no one had seen anything like it.

The pawfasting was based on the old pagan tradition of handfasting where two people declare a binding union between themselves for a year and a day.

John, an author and a staff writer at Pagan Dawn magazine, said: "I have spoken to many, many people and none of them have heard of, been to or seen a pawfasting before.

"It could be the first in the world."

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Christian Preacher Adds Insult to Injury with Nepal Tweet

April 26, 2015 patheos.com

by Hemant Mehta Leave a Comment

Leave it to a Christian preacher to hear about a tragedy like the Nepal earthquake and respond with the most dickish prayer you'll ever hear:

Sure, the death toll is approaching 2,000, but if everyone else turns to Jesus, I guess it'll all be worth it…

That preacher, **Tony Miano**, used to host a show with **Ray Comfort** called "On the Box." So I guess saying idiotic things in the name of Jesus runs in his circle of friends.

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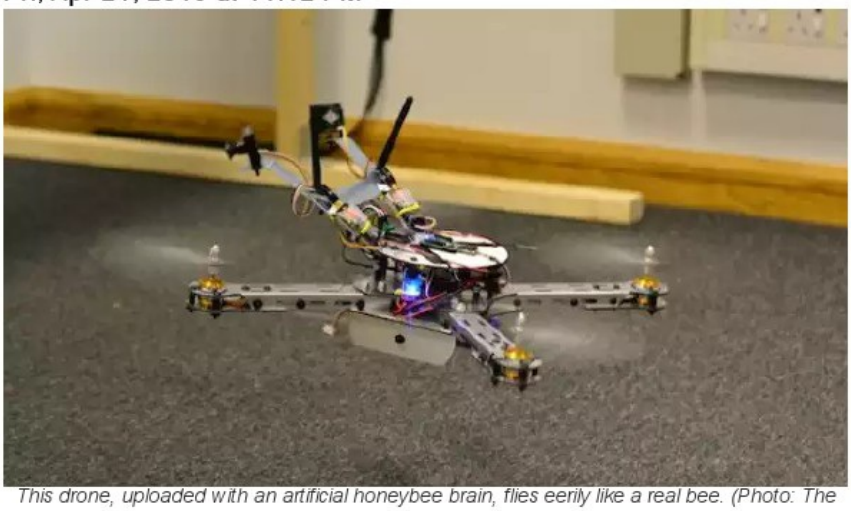
Drone flies after being installed with honeybee brain

mnn.com

Fleets of these "artificial bees" could one day pollinate our crops just like real bees do.

By: Bryan Nelson
Fri, Apr 24, 2015 at 11:12 PM



This drone, uploaded with an artificial honeybee brain, flies eerily like a real bee. (Photo: The Green Brain Project)

This could be the bee version of the robot apocalypse: Researchers from the Universities of Sheffield and Sussex have installed a drone with a honeybee brain, and it flies much like a real-life bee, reports Discover. Fleets of these bee-like bots could even one day takeover for actual, organic honeybees in the task of pollinating our crops.

The research is part of the Green Brain Project, which seeks to create artificial brains that are modeled after the brains of real-life creatures, and install them into robots. Their primary focus at this time is on the honeybee *Apis mellifera*.

For this experiment, a bee's brain was mapped and recreated using circuits that fire on and off in the same way that neural connections fire in organic bee brains. This artificial brain was then uploaded to a quadcopter drone, which was capable of successfully flying and navigating a corridor without bumping into anything. Researchers even claim that the drone's flying behavior was eerily similar to how real honeybees fly.

Though it's a remarkable achievement, it's important to note that the researchers only mapped a part of a honeybee's brain-- specifically, the parts responsible for seeing and smelling. Mapping the entire cognition of a honeybee would be a very complicated task, though researchers see this project as the first step in that eventual direction.

"Bees and all other insects are miracles of engineering which we are nowhere near equaling," explained University of Sheffield's James Marshall, to the BBC. "If we could even recreate a fraction of their abilities in a robot system then we would have made a tremendous advance."

Over time, Green Brain scientists want to reconstruct enough of a real-life honeybee brain so that the robots are capable of acting autonomously, with the ultimate aim of creating fleets of these drones to perform tasks just like real bees. For instance, given that populations of honeybees are dwindling worldwide, there may come a day when these bee-bots will be needed to pollinate our crops. Let's just hope that they're never equipped with stingers.

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Carriage rides added for Owensboro ghost tours

OWENSBORO, KY (WFIE) -

14news.com

Carriage rides added for Owensboro ghost tours

Carriage rides added for Owensboro ghost tours

Posted: Apr 25, 2015 8:27 AM PDT Updated: Apr 25, 2015 8:49 AM PDT

Posted by Jordan Rowe, Digital Content Producer

By Jonathan McEmber, Reporter

A new attraction is coming to Owensboro this weekend.

It's a chance for people to take a ride through history and into a ghost story.

David Wolfe says his "Haunts of Owensboro" walking ghost tours have been so popular he's now taking it to another level.

He's teamed with the Country Plantation House Carriage Company for carriage rides.

“Some people can't walk it,” Wolfe said. “So this gives them a chance to be able to get on it and ride it. It kind of takes you back in time so you're kind of taking a tour of back then, going on this ride, and hearing all the ghost stories."

Wolfe says the carriage tour is an attraction that shares downtown's rich history and paranormal experiences. He's uncovered new ghost stories to share.

"Theatre workshop has one of the most haunted spots in the Tri-State,” Wolfe told us. “It's got a great ghost story about it…about a poor horrific tragedy that happened inside the place… legend is and ever since then it's been extremely haunted."

For more information on "Haunts of Owensboro," visit this website.

Swedish town being moved two miles down the road

upi.com

The LKAB mine under Kiruna has started to cause cracks on city streets that officials said would worsen as mining continues.

By Ben Hooper | April 24, 2015 at 11:09 AM

KIRUNA, Sweden, April 24 (UPI) -- A Swedish state-owned mining company has started the process of moving the center of an arctic town two miles down the road.

Kiruna, the northernmost municipality in Sweden, began Wednesday the process of moving the center of the city two miles to allow the LKAB iron ore mine to expand to under the current city center.

LKAB said the process of moving 3,000 apartments -- which house about 6,000 of the city's estimated 23,000 residents -- and other buildings is estimated to cost $1.4 billion and the entire process will take about 10 years.

The first housing development to be moved was demolished Wednesday. The residents of the development were moved to a new building only a few hundred yards from the original.

LKAB said some buildings, including a century-old church, are being moved brick by brick, while others, including the historic City Hall, are simply too large to move and will be replaced.

"Much of the new town square and business district will be ready to move into in 2019," City Manager Peter Niemi told Radio Sweden, "if everything goes as planned. But if there's anything we've learned in our city planning, it's that we have to be flexible. In the worst case there could be a delay of up to two years."

Officials said the mine has grown closer and closer to the city in recent years and had started to cause cracks on city streets. They said the cracks would only get worse as mining continues.

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Weird NJ: Hunting for Plug Nickels

Mark Sceurman, Weird NJ

app.com

Francis LeRoy Henning of Erial may not be a household name to most folks in New Jersey, but to treasure hunters and coin collectors, Henning's name is notorious for counterfeiting what coin enthusiasts call "The 1944 Henning Nickel."

In the early 1950s, Henning, a counterfeiter by trade, set out to fake Jefferson nickels from the World War II era (1942-45). Nickel alloy at that time was more important for the government to make armor plates for the war effort, so the official 5 cent piece was minted with a combination of copper, silver and manganese. An identifying mark of either "P" (Philly), "S" (San Francisco) or "D" (Denver) was printed on the tail side of the coin.

Henning claimed to cut the dies for his coins directly from real coins using a machine he invented, but this has been disputed by coin collectors. Henning forgot one important impression: the mint mark of the state of origin on the back of his coins. The coin also had another minting flaw; there was a small indentation in the "R" in the word "Pluribus." His coins were minted with monel metal, a mixture of copper, nickel and iron. (Monel metal is mostly copper, around 80 percent).

It has been estimated that Henning produced almost a half-million of these nickels in 1954, and nearly 100,000 of them went into circulation before the Camden County Coin Collectors Club noticed the missing mint mark and tipped of the Secret Service early in 1955, who traced the operation back to Henning's home in Erial. Unfortunately for the feds, Henning dumped an estimated 200,000 of his nickels in the Cooper River in Cherry Hill before hightailing it out of town and fleeing to Cleveland, Ohio. Only 12,000 of those coins have ever been recovered from that river. Another 200,000 may have been dumped into the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania, none of which were ever found. Henning also produced the years 1939, 1946 and 1947 era nickels, but the 1944 without the identifying mark is the money coin for collectors.

(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

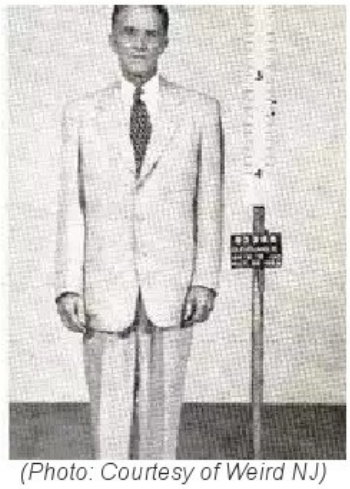
Coins found while using a metal detector.

He bought his metal from the same place the U.S. government purchased their metal at 31/2 cents for each blank. If there were really about 500,000 counterfeit coins minted, Henning's cost would have been $17,500. If you consider the other costs of printing, engraving and labor, and the fact that only 100,000 or so ever got into circulation before he closed up shop, Hennings would have spent $3,500 of his own money to turn it into a bogus $5,000. Considering the cost of a new home was about $8,000 and gas was 22 cents a gallon in 1954, we imagine he thought it was a good

idea. In 1954, a nickel's value was equivalent to about 50 cents today.

The coins that did go into circulation are occasionally found in pocket change, and collectors have paid from $10 to $15 for each Henning's Nickel that surfaces. One recently sold on eBay for $56. Although technically it is illegal to own counterfeit money, there is a market for them among coin buffs. The story of Henning was written up in various coin collector magazines, and there was a self-published booklet, "The Counterfeit 1944 Jefferson Nickel" by Dwight H. Stuckey, which details Henning's operation, but it is hard to find.

Henning was arrested in 1955 in Cleveland and pleaded guilty to counterfeiting nickels. He was sentenced to three years in jail with a $5,000 fine. Another three years were tacked on to his sentence for previously counterfeiting $5 bills. Over the years, the legend of Henning's counterfeiting operation has grown enormously among the coin community. The counterfeited pocket change that Francis LeRoy minted is worth an estimated $6 million among collectors if all the coins that he said he minted were ever recovered.



(Photo: Courtesy of Weird NJ)

Francis LeRoyHenning

Weird NJ met with treasure hunter Neil Schwartz at a secret location along the Cooper River in Cherry Hill. Neil has been doing research for the last few years as to where Francis LeRoy Henning dumped an estimated 200,000 or more counterfeit nickels in the river before he was caught by the feds in 1955.

Neil, who is the webmaster for WestJerseyDetecting.com is a "Dirt Fisher," a term used for treasure hunters and coin collectors. The site started out as an extension of his hobby and he would post photos of his treasure and coin finds for like-minded enthusiasts. Neil showed us the approximate location where he believes Henning dumped his coinage, and plans on recovering those that he can find.

WNJ: When did you first hear about the Henning Nickels?

I heard about Henning and the nickels in 2005 through various forums, and found out Henning lived just around the corner from here in Erial. He was a machine shop operator. I've viewed photos of the river that were taken in 1950, and with floods and erosion over the years, the river has changed a bit. I managed to track down two eyewitnesses who were kids at the time who showed me where the Secret Service was digging and dredging the river. They didn't know each other, but they basically both told me the same location. They said at the time the Secret Service was pulling up bucketfuls of nickels. The schoolchildren from the local school were coming down and grabbing them. It got to the point where the Secret Service had to go to the school and tell the children about how counterfeiting is illegal and they would have to turn in whatever they found. The spot is close to a road, which makes sense because Henning was trying to dump a heavy load in a hurry.

A Henning nickel.

(Photo: Courtesy Weird NJ)

Why don't you think he would have done a quarter instead of a nickel?

Well, first off, quarters were silver and much more detectable. If you start to research counterfeit nickels, you'll read that there was a lot of counterfeit nickels like the King George copper, going on in the 1850s. The nickel coins seems to be the coin that flew under the radar in most cases.

Don't you think any nickels you'd find in this river now would all be corroded?

I think they will be. It will probably be a rusted mass of orange metal because of the minerals and everything else that is in the river. Nickel coins generally don't stand up very well to time even in the best conditions.

(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

Neil Schwartz

People always ask us 'What's the weirdest thing you've ever seen,' and we're asking you 'what's the weirdest thing you ever found?'

Not long ago I went to the beach and I found three silver teeth! But you always find something when you go digging with the right equipment. I've found many Spanish coins. I once found a rare U.S. coin that went for $3,500. But with these new shows on TV like "American Diggers" and others, these metal detectors are flying off the shelves, and now metal detecting is starting to be banned in many areas because people think they can dig anywhere at any time. For die-hards like myself who are serious about the hobby, it will ruin it. People are leaving big holes and that's not right. The rule is to leave no holeprints.

Weird NJ: Uncle Sam's House in Piscataway

Once on a property inland by Route 9 I found a copper King George coin from 1722, which was amazing. A minute later about 33 away I got another hit and found a coin that was even older. Then in-between the two spots I find another that was the oldest of the three! You wonder how they got there and have been there for so long. Maybe 200 years ago someone fell off their horse and got robbed or something. You never know.

When do you think you'll be searching for the Henning Nickels?

I wrote the Camden County Parks Department. I don't want to do anything without the park

Weird NJ: Uncle Sam's House

Weird NJ

app.com

Intern. & Brotherhood.jpg

International Avenue and Brotherhood Street in Piscataway. (Photo: Photo: Weird NJ/Mark Moran)

Located at 143 School St., in the North Stelton section of Piscataway, is a house that was the brainchild of Sam Goldman, a Russian born artist, musician, paper-hanger and follower of anarchist doctrines. Built in 1915 by Goldman, the home is adorned with reliefs of Bolshevic symbolism, along with some abstract and oddly placed columns.

The area surrounding the house was once a farm commune, established as a cooperative organization called Fellowship Farms. It was a utopian enterprise based on socialist-Marxist teachings, and Sam was one of the leaders of the movement. At its center was the Modern School, conducted along progressive lines by followers of the Spanish martyr-anarchist Francisco Ferrer. The school was built on land donated by the cooperative.

The liberal-thinking socialist founders in the area decided to give the streets names like "International Avenue," "Brotherhood Street," "Voltaire Street," "Justice Street" and "Karl Marx Street" (later re-named Arlington Place by the capitalist bourgeois).

(Photo: Photo: Weird NJ/Mark Moran)

A portion of Uncle Sam's House in Piscataway.

In 1934, the group organized the Anarchist Federation of America, a group of theoretical, rather than practical, revolutionaries.

"Sam was a hippie, a free spirit, a bohemian of the times," Sam's niece told Weird NJ.

"What Sam wasn't was an architect. The house was built without a level, and you could roll a marble from one end of the house to the other. I grew up here all my life and attended the Modern School. It was really something. You could learn whatever you wanted. You just told the teacher 'I want to learn printing,' and they taught you. The school had a newspaper, and some of the articles were written by four and five-year-old students — and they were very articulate."

The house was constructed of wood with a plaster facade. The windows were made from shards of glass Sam had laying around. Rather than buy square panes, he constructed the frames to fit the glass, making each a one-of-a-kind work of art.

Sam's niece had many memories of her eccentric uncle, and we asked her to describe the man behind the anarchist:

police knowing what's happening. Now I'm waiting for the DEP to see about safety issues, pollution and any environmental concerns that might come up. I mean, the nickels themselves have been leaking toxins for the last 60 years. I have a team of about six people, I listed the equipment we were going to use, I told them "no dredging," things like that. The big problem is the silt and the mud that has shifted the river over the years, but that's the challenge.

(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

The Cooper River where the nickels were said to be dropped.

When do you do your 'dirt fishing?'

I don't do too much hunting in the summer. It gets too overgrown with poison ivy, ticks, things like that. I prefer the cooler months. You're not allowed to metal detect in the Pine Barrens, which is unfortunate because the sandy soil preserves whatever is below much better than dirt that's been filtered with fertilizers and chemicals from farmers and industry. The more you research areas that are considered historic, the more you get to know about what you might find. There are a lot of great old ruins that you can find stuff in. The more research you do, the luckier you seem to get!

The preceding article is an excerpt from Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which is available on newsstands throughout the state and on the web at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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Weird NJ: Legends of Lakewood's JL Tree

Weird NJ

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J L Tree.jpg

Lakewood'd J L tree.(Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

In the town of Lakewood, Ocean County, stands a tree which is famous in local lore known as the "JL Tree." Its tragic tale tells of the violent death of a young local lad and the tree that has immortalized his initials. Weird NJ readers share their stories…

Jimmy's Story is "True and Documented"

The Jimmy Lynch tree story goes back to the seventies, and THIS IS A TRUE AND DOCUMENTED STORY! Jimmy Lynch was a local high school student and he was in the park one October night when he was confronted by four youths (supposedly members of a local gang known to us as the Gods). These gangs also hung out in the park. They had made fun of Jimmy in school, and when they found him in the park, they stabbed him until they thought he was dead and left him at the base of this tree.

ASBURY PARK PRESS

The next morning his neighbors found him there dead. His girlfriend later carved his initials in the tree and as the story goes, over the next few years the branches at the top of the tree grew into the shape of the letters J and L. It is plainly visible and CANNOT be mistaken as anything else but J L. Over the last few years requests have been made to cut the tree down because of teenagers and the Satanic cults said to frequent the site, but the town has left it (as a kind of memorial I guess).

If you ask old-timers around here if they remember Jimmy Lynch from the '70s, they will tell you the story. I went to Lakewood High School and mostly all the teachers have been there since the '60s. If you ask if they knew Jimmy Lynch most will become very uneasy and tell you it is only folklore.

If anyone is interested they can look in the Lakewood public library and find newspaper clippings on the story. Also, Jimmy is buried in the cemetery at the end of Spruce Street, by Spruce Street School. *–J220king*

Not Murder, But a Tragic Accident

I was there the night Jimmy Lynch died. I was at the party and I was at the scene of the accident. We all left the party to go hang at the Lake; my friend Beth drove Jimmy and his little brother. They went speeding around North Lake Drive because Beth wanted to stop at

her house for something. They never made it to her house, one block away she went off the road and down a ravine, hitting a few trees on the way.

This is one that needs to be used to keep things weird. That is snow on the grass and ice in the water! In the background on the left are some of the changing rooms and to the right are the stairs that lead to the porch of the hotel. I wish we had names for the people. In all of my 65 years here, I have never seen seen this creek freeze over.

ASBURY PARK PRESS

Jimmy's little brother was thrown clear but still hurt. Beth was critical for days, but Jimmy died at the scene. When they did not show at South Lake, I took a drive to North Lake because I knew where she lived. That's when I saw the lights and investigated and found the car. The ambulance was just pulling away from the scene. I went back to South Lake, told everyone what I saw. We did not know who was hurt at this time, but a fireman told me someone had died. –*Charles Quinn*

Jimmy Lynch Still Wanders Lakewoood

The road that the JL Tree is on is off of East County Line Road. There used to be a park on the corner, but it was leveled years ago. If you drive down the road you have to look at the trees right before the left into the municipal garage. For some reason the initials "JL" seem to grow up and over the rest of the other trees. I've also known people to actually drive up to the base of the tree and their car stalled. The initials are still carved into the tree, and people have claimed to see a shadowy figure in a hooded sweatshirt walking around the area of the former park. –*Brianne D.*

You can read more local legends from around the state in Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which can be found on newsstands throughout the state and on online at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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Weird NJ: Moaning of Talamini Road

Weird NJ

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Talamini Road Sign.jpg

The sign marking Talamini Road in Bridgewater.(Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

Weird NJ explorers have experienced, and written to us about an odd phenomenon happening on Talamini Road in Bridgewater. The legends are similar to ones we've heard before, whose characteristics can be attributed to many roads of mystery: A car wreck, a death, and a warning for those who dare to cross the ghostly point of impact.

We find these recurring themes at Gravity Roads throughout New Jersey, where a young girl was supposedly killed in an automobile accident. Her ghost is said to appear, warning you to slow down to avoid a fate similar to her own. Riverview Drive in Totowa, known locally as "Annie's Road," can be classified as another such site, with a ghost whose intent it is to warn people of the dangerous curves on the road where she met her untimely end. There is also Atco's ghost boy on Burnt Mill Road, and the dreaded Indian Curse Road of Deptford, just to name a few.

None of these roads, however, have the distinction of possessing an audible sound that might warn the unsuspecting motorist of impending doom. Talamini Road, on the other hand, does. The legend states that as you pass the curve on Talamini Road, a moaning sound can be heard only from the driver's side of the car, only while traveling in one direction, and only at a certain speed.

From the locals that we've spoken to, the story circulating is that one night a driver, either in a car or truck, tried to take the curve at 50 mph. Some people said there was a young pedestrian also killed crossing the street as a result of this reckless act. Some of the letters we've received state that the moaning is actually the voice of the driver telling you to "Slow Down." Others say it is the sound of the truck's horn warning you to beware of the curve ahead. The sound is supposed to be droning, sort of monotone.

We decided to challenge this aural apparition and followed the directions as described to us: You must be heading west on the road, you must be traveling 35 mph, and just beyond the "Slow Children" sign, the moan will be heard on the driver's side of your vehicle only.

After attempting the prescribed procedure several times, we determined that the "moaning" sound can indeed be heard. We describe it more as the faint horn sound of a far off tractor trailer truck, rather than a moan, but nonetheless, the sound is clearly audible. When traversing the road at any speed other than 35 mph, the phenomenon does not occur.

After searching through records concerning fatal accidents along the two-mile stretch, we came up with no incidents ever being reported on the semi-residential street. The property to

the south of Talamini is a golf course. We looked for a possible pump house or another structure that might cause the sound, but found no evidence of machinery at work. Checking the pavement for ripples or bumps of any kind proved fruitless. The sound is truly a mystery.

Of course, anyone wanting to try this phenomenon should bear in mind that the actual speed limit on the road is 25 mph, and not 35 mph, so testing the legend would require breaking the law. Also, speeding on any road with "Slow Children" signs may result in tickets for other moving violations. Sometimes we here at Weird NJ are forced to break the law in the name of investigative research though, so that you won't have to.

I have discovered through rumors from friends and from going there myself to verify, that there is a strange, voicelike sound that can be heard on Talamini Road in Bridgewater. The sound is quite monotone, and perhaps a bit gurgled, but it seems to resemble a man's voice yelling, "Slow down!" Needless to say, in order to even hear the sound, one must be driving there. Of course, as with most weird things, this must be done at night, specifically, past midnight. Furthermore, you have to have all windows rolled down, music off, and air conditioning off. It only seems to occur when traveling in one direction, specifically (away from highway 202-206, heading for the intersection of Country Club Road). *–A Weird NJ reader*

You can read New Jersey's unexplained phenomena in Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which can be found on newsstands throughout the state and on online at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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Weird NJ: The Atco Ghost

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Weird NJ: The Atco Ghost

There's a ghost story in the southern New Jersey town of Atco that tells of a young boy who was run down on a lonely stretch of road after chasing his basketball into the middle of the street.

Street Sign Horiz.jpg

The street sign for Burnt Mill Road in Atco. (Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

There's a ghost story in the southern New Jersey town of Atco that tells of a young boy who was run down on a lonely stretch of road after chasing his basketball into the middle of the street.

The tale centers around a sparsely populated lane on the fringes of the Pine Barrens known as Burnt Mill Road, and there are some very detailed instructions would-be ghost hunters must follow in order to see this apparition.

Weird NJ readers share their experiences…

(Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

A view of Burnt Mill Road in Atco where the ghost of a little boy is said to appear.

Atco Ghost Boy Dribbles in the Darkness

In the town of Atco, there is a road that was never finished. It branches off a road that connects with Route 30. This road runs about two miles before it ends in the Pine Barrens. It was Christmas night and a boy was out playing with the basketball he got as a present when a drunk driver came speeding down this dead end street. He hit the boy and decided to run — only to come to the end of the road. The driver was forced to do a U-turn and drive back, passing the body of the boy he had just killed.

You drive down the street and head straight toward the end of the road. When you reach the end, do a U-turn and pull your car up to the part of the street where there is a crack through the asphalt from one side of the street to the other. Stop here and beep your horn three times and flash your lights three times, then sit in darkness for a bit. You will see the figure of a boy begin to cross the street dribbling a basketball, almost in slow motion. *–Anthony Dooley*

If You Want to See a Ghost, Just Kill the Engine, Kill the Lights and Walk Away

The most common way to see the ghost is to drive to this haunted road in the middle of the night, park on the side, kill the engine, kill the lights and get out of the car. You then walk AWAY from the spot where the ghost appears, and after twenty feet, turn around. You will then see the spectral form of a little boy walking towards you. *–Manning L. Krull*

(Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

The sign for Burnt Mill Road in Atco.

Ghost Boy Searches for Those Who Killed Him

I used to row for my college's crew team in South Jersey. On one practice another teammate told this tale. He was describing a ghost he saw in Atco. He said that the ghost was the victim of a hit and run on Burnt Mill Road and, if you park at the end of the road with your engine and lights off, the ghost would appear and look the car over to see if it was the same one that killed him. *–Scott Kafarski*

Atco Ghost Follows the Bouncing Ball

Down a road in Atco there is a house where a little boy was playing with a ball in the yard. He chased it into the street, where he was hit by a car and killed. It is a ritual of passage to go and try to see the boy's ghost. You should go at midnight, and park in a specific spot and flash your lights at the area in the road across from the house.

An image of the dead boy is supposed to be seen chasing the ball into the street with headlights coming at him. Many have said they see different scenes but they are all related, most of them having a little boy and headlights. In my own personal experience, an image of a boy did walk toward our car, but never actually made it. It was as though he was walking in place. Nevertheless, I was scared out of my wits. *–Kyle*

(Photo: Photo © Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

Burnt Mill Road in Atco where the ghost of a little boy is said to appear.

I've Seen the Atco Ghost!

There is a dead-end street in Atco that has been haunted for years. At the end of the road there is some type of factory from which large trucks often leave around dusk. One night, there was a little kid bouncing a ball all over the street. As one of the trucks was leaving the plant, the ball took a bad bounce and the boy ran after it

— right into the path of the oncoming truck.

Rumors started to circulate that the boy's ghost comes back to play in the same street that he was killed on. Growing up in Atco, I spent many nights drinking beer with friends at the end of this street and waiting for the ghost. We never seemed to find him whenever we gathered there. The only time I ever had a different experience there was when I actually followed the instructions on how to see the ghost. The night was rather misty and it was raining a little bit. My friend and I drove to the end of the road where the factory is located and turned around. We drove up to the second streetlight and stopped the car. I turned off the ignition and we sat in silence for a while.

Nothing was happening, so we decided to leave. The moment I touched the keys, a sudden wind swirled the mist on the road, and a shadowy shape appeared at the side of the road. It wasn't a shape really, but a break in the low-lying fog that resembled the outline of a small child. We decided to get out of there. As I was racing down the street, I could see the fog swirling faster and faster. We came to the stop sign, which I ignored, and I turned left onto the main street. –*Zachary W.*

You can read more about the Atco Ghost and all of New Jersey's other haunted byways in Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which can be found on newsstands throughout the state and on online at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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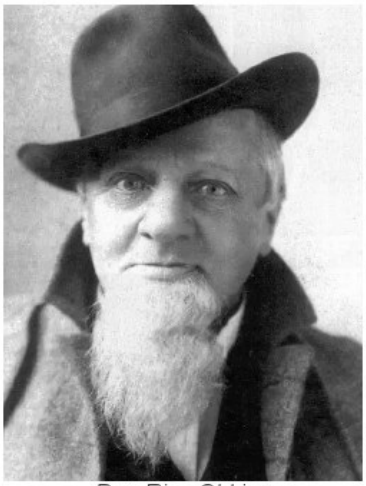
Weird NJ: The Dan Rice bandwagon

Heather Wendt Kemp, Weird NJ

app.com

The Old First Methodist Church Cemetery in West Long Branch is home to the humble grave of Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of," according to biographer David Carlyon.



Dan Rice Old.jpg

Dan Rice in his later years.(Photo: Weird NJ)

The Old First Methodist Church Cemetery in West Long Branch is home to the humble grave of Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of," according to biographer David Carlyon.

Born Daniel MacLaren, he was America's first famous clown. Calling himself the "Great American Humorist," Rice's act contained song and dance, political commentary, and burlesque versions of Shakespeare when the circus was an adult entertainment genre. Rice's entertainment career was so successful that he formed several of his own traveling shows including one on a riverboat. In New Orleans, he opened Dan Rice's Amphitheatre and Museum.

(Photo: Weird NJ)

A photo from “The Life of Dan Rice.”

Rice's maternal grandparents lived in West Long Branch, where his mother, Elizabeth Crum, returned with him shortly after his birth in 1823. She later married Hugh Manahan, a dairy farmer, who purchased a farm in the Bowery in lower Manhattan. Dan Rice spent most of his boyhood in New York driving a milk wagon along his stepfather's route, receiving his education in the human menagerie of the Bowery. After the birth of Rice's fourth stepsibling, his mother died, leaving his stepfather to remarry. Dan then struck out on his own as a young teenager and found work along the newly burgeoning Erie Canal. Thus began his wanderlust. In these early years, he found jobs caring for horses and driving carts and would entertain fellow stable workers with his singing and antics. He also met his first wife, Maggie, with whom he eloped at 17. She lived with his mother's family in West Long Branch until she could join Dan later on the road.

Dan Rice's performance debut came in 1841 when he got a job presenting a famous trained swine, "Sybil, the Learned Pig." Once Maggie joined him, they would sing duets after the pig show. Rice got hooked on performing for an audience and received featured billing in circus shows as a strongman, a blackface minstrel, and a Shakespearean clown, while evolving his trademark act of singing, dancing and humor. Later, as a circus owner, he impressed audiences with his innovative mix of equestrian performers, acrobats, and amazing animal acts. His performances featured Excelsior, a white horse; performing mules; an elephant

named Lalla Rookh and a rare trained rhinoceros called Old Put. Dan and Maggie later divorced and he settled in Girard, Pennsylvania, with his second wife, Rebecca. Rice sponsored America's first monument to the Civil War dead that still stands in Girard today. Thrice married and twice divorced, Rice returned periodically to West Long Branch to visit with his family.

(Photo: Weird NJ)

A photo from “The Life of Dan Rice.”

During his career's heyday Rice's gift of oratory is said to have coined several popular phrases. "One-horse show" is credited to him during a time when Rice was having financial trouble and ended up losing all but one of his show's equestrian team. As a result of going on with only one horse, his critics derided his show as "one-horse show." Rice turned the critique around, wittily telling his detractors that "the taking of Troy was strictly a one-horse show!"* Even though he had only one horse, people turned out in droves and Rice's show was a success.

"Hey, Rube!" is another phrase attributed to Dan Rice. It was used as rallying cry by carnies when under the threat of violence by townies. The legend says that a member of Rice's troupe in New Orleans was being attacked. The victim called out to his friend, Reuben, who rushed to his aid in the rumble. The phrase now lives on as a call for help. Circuses were notorious for violence due to the number of fights that broke out when they arrived in a town. As the popularity of circus entertainment diminished and performers became seen as low-brow, "carnies" became a derogatory term for circus folk. "Hey, Rube!" can also be used to mean a carnie fight.

(Photo: R. LUBISCHER/www.flickr.com/photos/surreal-journey)

The grave of Dan Rice, circus entertainer, “the most famous man you've never heard of.” Believed to be the model for “Uncle Sam,” he was inducted into the Clown Hall of Fame in 1991.

Rice claimed to be friends with presidential candidate Zachary Taylor, who, after seeing him perform, invited Dan to join him on the campaign trail. Parading Taylor on his circus bandwagon, Dan Rice reportedly inspired the phrase, "jump on the bandwagon." After Taylor was elected, Rice liked to refer to himself as the "president's court jester." Dan Rice's story was that Taylor was so grateful for his help in winning the election that he made Rice an honorary "colonel." Rice used his title for political aspirations as a candidate for Congress and during a brief run for president in 1867. Ever-patriotic, Rice's iconic clown costume of a white goatee, top hat, and suit of stars and stripes is said to have inspired Thomas Nast's character, Uncle Sam.

"He had the uncanny ability to paint wood grain. He would spend hours painting the knots of the wood and the lines that go around it. They still remain on the trim inside the house. He also never bought a thing in his life. He would always barter. During the 1930s, our community, because of its beliefs, had a difficult time finding work. Sam and his brother were wallpaper hangers, and his brother was a master at it. Sam was sloppy, he had little interest in proletarian pursuits, and only did it to help make ends meet for his family. They would call him a 'schmeerer,' because of the way he sloppily hung the paper. He and his brother papered some buildings at the university (Rutgers). They were always being mistaken for each other because they looked similar. He completed a full program at Cooper Union, but never received his diploma because he decided to go on a date that night with his future bride."

(Photo: Photo: Weird NJ/Mark Moran)

A detail of Uncle Sam's House in Piscataway.

We were shown the spot where the Modern School once stood, now nothing more than weeds and an old foundation. Although Uncle Sam's House (as the family still calls it) has seen better days, the anarchist reliefs Sam had sculpted still inspire free-spirited thinkers when they ride through the now-bourgeois neighborhood. The Goldman House is turning 100 years old this year, and the current owners are hosting fundraisers featuring music, performances, art and history, that aim to return the house and property to its former glory and role within the community. All donations go for the renovations of the house. (For more information, visit www.facebook.com/TheGoldmanHouse.)

The first event of the season will be a St. Patrick's Day themed Irish music open mic night to be held inside Uncle Sam's House on March 21, and they are hoping to have good enough weather to have a campfire outside as well. All who play music are welcome to bring their instruments. So go raise your voices as one comrades, you have nothing to lose but your chains!

(Photo: Photo: Weird NJ/Mark Moran)

A detail of Uncle Sam's House in Piscataway.

Utopian memories of Uncle Sam's House

I discussed Sam's unique hand built home with my 15-year-old granddaughter who was fascinated by its artfully rendered structure, its inhabitants, and the notion of an "anarchist" neighborhood. In fact, I lived there with my family for a full year before moving into a spiritual commune in the mountains of Southern California.

Dan Rice's circus career declined as proper society began to view the circus as low-brow entertainment for the unwashed masses. Though he made fortunes, he lost them all through careless spending and lending. He became a heavy drinker in his later years and lost his second wife and home in Girard. With his background as a performer, his fervor as a recovered alcoholic led him to become a temperance speaker. Unable to find any investors for new circus ventures, Rice was forced to become a snake-oil salesman. Dan Rice finally returned to his extended family in West Long Branch at the age of 70. He lived with his cousin Delia Crum Brown and her husband on Norwood Avenue until he passed away from complications of Bright's Disease in 1900 at age 77.

(Photo: Weird NJ)

A circus poster featuring Dan Rice.

A biography, *The Life of Dan Rice*, was written by a relative, Maria Ward Brown, and published in 1901 in West Long Branch. Rice collaborated with her on the book, standing at her shoulder to dictate and make corrections as she typed his life story. This book is available today online in the Internet Archive: https://archive.org/details/lifeofdanrice00browrich. When Rice finally went to the great circus tent in the sky, Ms. Brown wrote this poem in his honor:

"He has gone where the clown and the king

Meet under the canvas as brothers,

Where no one need fool in the ring

To tickle the fancies of others;

And, if God loves the man who has curved

People's lips into smiles, there's a nice

Front seat that has long been reserved—

Over there for jolly Dan Rice.

"He marshaled not host on the plain,

Nor rose above men to command,

Yet much that he did shall remain

With his heart and his generous hand,

For he made the world laugh in his day—

And he put sorrow under a ban—

So here is a garland to lay

On the bier of jolly old Dan."

*Carlyon, David. "Dan Rice, The Most Famous Man You've Never Heard Of." 2001. Public Affairs.

The preceding article is an excerpt from the latest issue of Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which is now available on newsstands throughout the state and on the web at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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Organic livestock story is dodgy (UPDATED)

by idoubtit • April 27, 2015 • 17 Comments

UPDATE: There appears to be no basis for this claim from the Telegraph that there is a new directive for organic farmers to use homeopathy.

The EU, homeopathy and Norwegian vets – Full Fact.

> The Telegraph quotes from the supposed directive: "it is a general requirement… for production of all organic livestock that (herbal) and homeopathic shall be used in preference to chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics."
>
> The underlined part comes from the 2008 rules: "Phytotherapeutic, homoepathic products, trace elements and [vitamins and minerals] shall be used i to chemically-synthesized allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal, and for which the treatment is intended."
>
> We can't locate any document that contains the first half of the Telegraph's quotation.

The rule is old, not new, so the Telegraph article is wrong even though the directive does suggest using homeopathy, it does not mandate it. It is unclear wh up this article. There are nearly 700 comments to it arguing this point (and homeopathy).

Thanks to those that provided updates to this. That's what this site is all about.

Original article 25-Apr 2015

EU orders Britain's organic farmers to treat sick animals with homeopathy

> British organic farmers are being forced to treat their livestock with homeopathic remedies under new European Commission rules branded 'scientific by vets.
>
> Although homeopathy has been branded as 'rubbish' by the government's Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies, organic farmers have been told t first under a new EU directive which came into force in January.
>
> The regulation means that animals could be left diseased or in pain for far longer than necessary and organic meat could end up containing higher lev bacteria, vets have warned.

Because of the "organic" label, the owners of the animals are not allowed to use "chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics." OH, Those things are just nasty in how they actual have active ingredients and work to fix the problem. Homeopathy is nothing, it's giving them nothing.

Oddly, it mentions that Norwegian vets are getting involved in the dispute:

> Last week The Norwegian Veterinary Association called on their government to begin discussions with the European Union to ensure that only "scien documented" therapies are recommended in future.
>
> Vets in Norway have also called on their country's Food Standards Agency to delay fully implementing the directive in protest at the "ridiculous" guide

But Norway is not part of the European Union. (And looking pretty smart for that.)

17 comments for "Organic livestock story is dodgy (UPDATED)"

1. Mark Richards
April 25, 2015 at 6:54 PM

Bear in mind:

1.The Telegraph is the mouthpiece of the eurosceptic Conservative party.
2.There's a General Election in the UK in <2 weeks.
3.There is a political party, UKIP, which takes a particular interest in getting the UK out of Europe; it used to be their single policy before they develop forming (a part of) the government.
4.Like every other online news site The Telegraph is in the clickbait business, UKIP supporters are astroturfing every site they can find, therefore a pi ridiculous EU policy will bring them out in force and generate lovely revenue for The Telegraph.

Given the above I'm very sure this story is made up, clickbait, rabble-rousing BS.

- Parabanal
April 25, 2015 at 8:01 PM

Neither the Telegraph nor UKIP have any say in Norwegian politics, media or vet associations and there's been a pretty big kerfuffle over there

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (in compliance with the EU rules):
1. If there is a health problem despite preventive measures to ensure
animal health in accordance with Article 15 . 1 letter f) i) of Regulation (EC) No . 834/2007 ,
veterinary treatment may be used in the following priority order:
a) substances from plants, animals or minerals in a homeopathic dilution ,
b) plants and plant extracts have no anesthetic effects, and
c) substances with trace elements, metals, natural substances that stimulate the immune system
or authorized probiotics.
(http://www.mattilsynet.no/fisk_og_akvakultur/akvakultur/okologisk_akvakultur/forordning_eu_nr_7102009.18442/binary/Forordning%20%28EU

2009)

PS: Norway is not part of the EU, but the EEA and must therefore, sadly, adhere by certain EU rules.

2. Ben Bradley
April 25, 2015 at 6:58 PM

And I thought the US Government and its officials were bad at coming up with such ridiculous rules.

Oh, wait, the US is INDEED as bad as this.

* worldwide collective facepalm *

3. David
April 25, 2015 at 7:56 PM

Sharon, I don't know if you're under some kind of deadline or pressure to publish often, but following your blog I've become more and more concerne cite poor sources without apparently even spending a few minutes to check out their claims. After reading your post it took me less than 2 minutes to

http://eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=85546

The fact that searching the eu's own website, where all directives and proposed directives are published, for the supposed text of the "new directive" nothing should have been a hint.

As should have the fact this story is being promoted on the likes of davidicke.com

Always, always, check the sources sources.

- Parabanal
April 26, 2015 at 12:39 PM

Here's he document in question: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:204:0015:0034:EN:PDF

"Article 25t
Veterinary treatments
1. When despite preventive measures to ensure animal health, according to Article 15(1)(f)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, a health problem arises, veterinary treatments may be used in the following order of preference:
(a) substances from plants, animals or minerals in a homoeopathic dilution;
(b) plants and their extracts not having anaesthetic effects, and
(c) substances such as: trace elements, metals, natural immunostimulants or authorised probiotics."

4. RandyRandy
April 25, 2015 at 8:08 PM

Way to go, EU. Will they now be treating Mad Cow Disease with aura balancing and sugar water?
It's so reassuring to see that science denial, woo, scientific illiteracy and inane public policy are not confined to my own beloved USA. Who authors th Stupidity is an equal-opportunity blight on humanity and apparently nobody is immune, even in 2015.

- motlock11@gmail.com
April 26, 2015 at 6:21 PM

Mad Cow disease is treated with immediate destruction of the animal.

- RandyRandy
April 27, 2015 at 5:28 AM

Why? Because they can't cure them with prayer or homeopathy?

- Colonel Tom
April 27, 2015 at 12:21 PM

Because they can not be cured by anything, homeopathy is just as effective on mad cow disease as the best science available, beca a damn thing.

The only "cure" for mad cow disease is destruction of the pion before it infects another animal, or human.

In Western Kentucky, there is a form of mad cow disease that contracted from the eating of squirrel brains, not germane, but I find it

5. Graham
April 26, 2015 at 12:58 AM

This appears to be the regulation in question:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31999R1804&from=EN

6. skarp
April 26, 2015 at 8:29 AM

it's dated 1999 – is a 16 year old regulation the best evidence you've got?

7. GrahamH
April 26, 2015 at 9:48 AM

Assuming it's true, could this situation be used like the Scopes Monkey Trial (and further trials) as a set piece to legally set precedence?

8. Fortean_UK
April 26, 2015 at 2:31 PM

Story debunked here:

https://fullfact.org/factcheck/europe/eu_homeopathy_norwegian_vets-43773

9. Colonel Tom
April 26, 2015 at 7:12 PM

I certainly don't always understand the article selection for this site, and this has me a bit puzzled. The "standards" in question, the prohibition against
during "organic" production would hardly be that different than the practices of many U.S. concerns. For U.S. beef production there is a requirement a
requires a little more management and care of a herd. If contaminated by certain infectious agents, a farmer has the option to cull the animal or cure
the organic certification. Vaccines are allowed, which is sensible as vaccines are organic.

I'm more familiar with chickens and turkeys, and certain treatments for worms are allowed from certain approved substances. While I help with an org
because an honest man meets the requirements for his consumers. If the consumers want organic, they certainly don't want feedlock sick/anti dosed

- Lagaya1
April 27, 2015 at 12:17 AM

I think the problem is more with the approving of homeopathy than with the disapproving of antibiotics that makes the paper controversial. Legiti
is certainly problematic.

- Colonel Tom
April 27, 2015 at 12:32 PM

Ayee, then my experience with livestock takes me to a different mindset. I see the variable to optimize the organic part of situation, and no
does anything to ruin the achievement of organic status. I'm mildly familiar with what is called homeopathy in flock management, it appare
the human cult of homeopathy, as the poultry version is a combination of good flock management, probiotics and a holistic "over-all-health
take less offense at holistic flock people than I do the "given them drugs until we breed a superbug that will kill us all" people.

- Colonel Tom
April 27, 2015 at 12:43 PM

But judge for yourself, here is a mainstream poultry website's advice.
http://backyardchickens.yuku.com/topic/6692/Natural-and-homeopathic-remedies#.VT5k-SFVjBE
Some bad advice, but nothing too dangerous. There are far worse advice out there, including a nasty trend to misunderstand selecti
comes to chickens.

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The Creepy Story of the Medvegia Vampires

micahackerman.com

The Official Page Of Author Micah Ackerman

The Creepy Story of the Medvegia Vampires

4/20/2015

Also my new short story "Shadow People" will be free for the next 4 days. Starting at midnight tonight you can get the story FREE on Amazon by clicking on this link: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00UB84UDO

This story has never been FREE before and will only be available for five days.

The last piece of info that I have is that Wormwood will soon be available as an audiobook. I anticipate the audiobook's release by May 1st on Audible and ACX.

In the past I have posted about reportedly true instances of vampirism. There were the reported incidents at Highgate Cemetery in England and the "Mercy Brown" vampire story from Rhode Island. Today I want to talk about another incident that reportedly was of a real life vampire, or in this particular case... Vampires.

Back in the mid 1720's a group of doctors were requested to investigate a small village in Serbia called Medvegia. It was reported that a man named Peter Plogojowitz had died, but was later witnessed by villagers walking the streets of the town. To add to the hysteria reportedly nine people fell ill with a deadly sickness that had been somehow connected to blood loss. This is an excerpt from the book "The Everything Vampire Book." :

"In 1725, Peter Plogojowitz, by rights an average man of little distinction, passed away and was buried in the Rahm district of Kisilova. Just over a week later, a mysterious twenty-four-hour illness, which some report as involving a loss of blood, struck nine villagers of varying ages resulting in their deaths. Plogojowitz's wife claimed that her dearly departed husband had paid her a visit in order to collect his shoes (some accounts claim he visited his son for food on several occasions and when refusing dear old dead dad, the son died). This substantiated the reports — prior to their demise — from those who fell ill that Plogojowitz not only visited them but attempted to strangle them."

So as was common in these situations Plogojowitz was dug up and examined for signs of decomposition. Supposedly Peter showed no signs of rotting away, in fact he looked "fresh" and had shown signs of hair and fingernail growth. He also had fresh blood running from his mouth. Again here is an excerpt from The Everything Vampire Book:

With the cooperation of authorities and military personnel, the poor man was dug up, and according to accounts did indeed bear the telltale signs of a vampire. Some of his skin had sloughed off to show new skin underneath, his hair and nails had grown, there was blood near his mouth, and he appeared relatively intact. It should come as no surprise that his appearance was cause for panic and anger. Plogojowitz's corpse was staked through the heart, after which it was reported that fresh blood leaked from his chest and out the mouth and ears. The

Mailing List!!! ONLY $2.99 BUY NOW ON KINDLE!!!

Picture

Picture

poor man's corpse was promptly set alight and burned to ash. Naturally, this gave cause for all of his alleged victims to also be exhumed and measures taken, such as garlic stuffed in their mouths, to make certain they would rest in peace.

Coincidentally the strange attacks stopped after the staking of Plogojowitz. All was well in the quiet village for a couple of years, but then a man named Arnod Paole returned to the village from war. Reportedly whil off fighting in what is now Greece, Paole said he had a run in with a vampire. He went through great lengths to try and prevent himself from becomming one of the undead here are Paole's words from a book called the Repertum: "TheRepertum states that Paole "had eaten from the earth of the vampire's grave and had smeared himself with the vampire's blood, in order to be free of the vexation he had suffered." Unfortunately for the former soldier, his "cure" proved futile, and he allegedly spread his tall tale around the village"

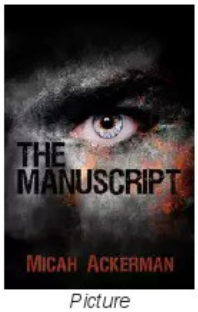
It wasn't long before Paole died from a fall off of a wagon. Again villagers reported seeing Paole walking about and he was accused of four deaths:

As with Peter Plogojowitz, these accusations became grounds for digging up Paole to examine his corpse for signs of vampirism, which they did forty days after his burial. Again, the folkloric signs of the ultimate nightcrawler came into sharp focus. According to the Repertum, the villagers found that Paole was "quite complete and undecayed, and that fresh blood had flowed from his eyes, nose, mouth, and ears; that the shirt, the covering, and the coffin were completely bloody; that the old nails on his hands and feet, along with the skin, had fallen off, and that new ones had grown." As was customary, a stake was driven through Paole's heart, and he "gave an audible groan and bled copiously." After he was done scaring the knickers off everyone with his final death knell, he was burned to ashes.

Picture

The strange thing about these accounts to me are the eye-witness reports. The stories not only come from villagers, but also from esteemed and educated people like doctors and town councilman. It seems like a lot of these stories come from the same part of the world ... Eastern Europe which leads me to believe that it is a cultural phenomenon of the time. Here is the report from the doctors who were summoned to investigate the cases. This is from Vampyres.Ca:

BUY THE STORY!!!



Picture

BUY THE STORY!!!

Picture

Buy The Story!!!

Picture

BUY THE STORY!!!

"In their report, Visum et Repertum (Seen and Discovered), the officers told not only what they had heard from the villagers but also, in admirable clinical detail, what they themselves had seen when they exhumed and dissected the bodies of the supposed victims of the vampire. Of one corpse, the authors observed, "After the opening of the body there was found in the cavitate pectoris a quantity of fresh extravascular blood. The vasa [vessels] of the arteriae and venae, like the ventriculis cordis, were not, as is usual, filled with coagulated blood, and the whole viscera, that is, the pulmo [lung], hepar [liver], stomachus, lien [spleen], et intestina were quite fresh as they would be in a healthy person."

Again, the one thing that sticks out to me is the clinical detail by educated people. This wasn't just Urban Legend passed between a bunch of farmers...What do you think?

I have been aware of these two reports and many more, being I have done a lot of reading in this area myself. I have heard some strange encounters by local law enforcement that is rarely spoken of that would raise the hairs on your head. It is true, that a good many reports and observations come from very reliable people and sometimes even experts in their fields of study.

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Weird NJ: The ghost of Exit 82

Weird NJ

app.com

Unexplainable encounters and close calls around Exit 82 at Route 37 in Toms River are attributed locally to the "Parkway Phantom."

Exit82.jpg

Mile marker 82 on the Garden State Parkway. (Photo: Weird NJ/Mark Moran)

Perhaps it's apropos that in our fast moving, highly mobile state, many of our most notable ghosts are seen hanging out at the side of the road, where it is said that they met their untimely demise. These roadside apparitions have been witnessed by countless motorists over the course of several generations. They seem to be content to wander their own stretch of paranormal pavement year in and year out, eternally reenacting their final living moments here on this Earth.

So could a road as legendary as New Jersey's famed Garden State Parkway not have a highway haunting associated with it? No way! Unexplainable encounters and close calls around Exit 82 at Route 37 in Toms River are attributed locally to the "Parkway Phantom." Ever since the completion of the Parkway in 1955, people have reported seeing a person trying to cross the road, waving his arms. This Phantom appears only at night and only around an eight-mile stretch in the vicinity of Toms River Barracks of the New Jersey State Police. The apparition is described as being very tall with a long topcoat belted at the waist. The strangest thing about this apparition is the way he waves his arms, which is synchronously, both bending from the elbow. It has been described as looking like a strange football cheer. Although the State Police are reluctant to comment, a former state trooper admitted that that section of the highway has seen more than its fair share of auto accidents.

Weird NJ readers share their stories of the Parkway Phantom:

An Asbury Park Press article describing a “ghost hunt” at the site.

Trying to Get Saved in Toms River

We all work as paramedics in Ocean County, and we see a lot of fatal accidents. About five years ago, on a rainy night along the spot on the Parkway where it is also Route 9, there was a guy whose car broke down on the curve. He pulled off to the side and began to walk along the shoulder when a driver hit him, throwing him into the woods and killing him.

Weird NJ: Jumping on the Dan Rice bandwagon

When the paramedics got there they knew someone had been hit, but due to the darkness

OST WATCHERS — These are some of the hundreds o waited in vain at midnight Saturday to see a white- d female "ghost." Motorists on the Garden State Park- y have reported seeing the "ghost" dancing on the rkway near the Palisades picnic area outside of Toms the figure would appear at midnight Saturday wh there was a full moon. The report drew some 400 pe sons to the scene, near Bay avenue in Dover Townsh State police on the parkway said the "ghost" reported seen by motorists probably was a woman pedestri

(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

and rain they could not find him. They finally did and tried to revive him, but it was too late. Several weeks later the same medic crew was coming back from Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood, heading toward Toms River, when they saw someone on the side of the road waving them down. By the time they were able to pull over and back up to the spot the man was gone, but they noticed it was in the same spot where the man was hit only weeks before. They just blew off the event until another crew reported a similar event in the same area. To date about three teams have seen this. *–SeanEms17*

(Photo: ©Weird NJ / Mark Moran)

Exit 82 on the Garden State Parkway.

The Parkway Phantom Way Back When

Here's a little news coverage from '59 or '60 of a ghost hunt on the Garden State Parkway near Toms River. Rumor had it that a naked female ghost was seen floating over the Parkway — who could resist that? Quite a crowd showed up, along with the police. No ghost, or even a naked woman, was seen, but one enterprising youth thought it would be a good idea to put on a sheet and scare a cop. It wasn't a good idea... *–Gary Fitton*

The preceding article is an excerpt from Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which is available on newsstands throughout the state and on the web at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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I loved the place, its history and its one-of-a-kind architecture. Did you know that the bathroom mirror was lowered to accommodate Sam's height (so he could see himself without tip-toeing? My then-2-year-old son loved to roll marbles down the slanted kitchen floor.

In case they're still there, I'm the one who put up the elaborate Styrofoam cup display on the curved dining room ceiling! I also did the colorful acrylic painting on the adjacent room wall. I think the year was 1970, well before the hippie energy had abated.

I should know since, as a war veteran and professor of psychology at Middlesex County College, I was part of the anti-war movement, which ironically was in synch with the spirit of the founding Anarchists!

I still have a small hand painted oil portrait of and by Sam Goldman hanging on the wall of my master bedroom. Sam is depicted blue faced, with silver-grey hair, hand around his chin, pondering the deeper meaning of life.

–Phil Baum

You can read about all of New Jersey's other unique properties in Weird NJ magazine, "Your Travel Guide to New Jersey's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets," which can be found on newsstands throughout the state and on online at www.WeirdNJ.com.

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What Flattened the Top of Mt. Lee (of Hollywood Sign Fame)?

kcet.org

by Nathan Masters
July 21, 2014 5:15 PM

The Hollywood Sign stands on the face of Mount Lee, a 1,708-foot peak in the Hollywood Hills. 1960 photo courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library.

A monument to a failed dream frames the **Hollywood Sign**. Behind the landmark letters rises the 1,708-foot summit of Mount Lee, a hilltop whose flatness is no geologic anomaly, no wayward mesa from the Southwest. Instead, it's the remnant of a movie mogul's abandoned plan to build the grandest mansion in Los Angeles.

One of the highest peaks in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains, Mount Lee originally sported a rounded top. A narrow ridge connected the then-unnamed summit to nearby Cahuenga and Burbank peaks; together, they were known as the Three Sisters.

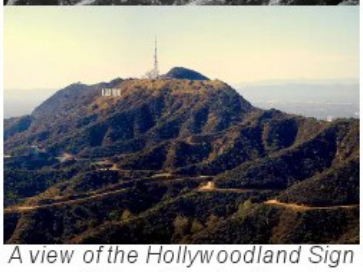
In 1923, a real estate syndicate christened the peak Mount Hollywoodland and opened at its base **Hollywoodland** -- a housing subdivision advertised in white block letters fifty feet tall. Among the developers was Mack Sennett -- a pioneering filmmaker best known for slapstick comedies like the Keystone Kops -- who reserved for himself an 18-acre mountaintop parcel where he hoped to build **his dream house**.

And what a dream it was. From the mountaintop, Sennett could see and be seen; he would enjoy commanding views of the entire city, and as the only structure on the crest of the Hollywood Hills, his house would become a conspicuous landmark. Plans by architect John L. DeLario placed a dining room, living room, drawing room, library, conservatory, kitchen, servant's quarters, and a butler's pantry all on the first floor. On the second floor, in addition Sennett's own apartment, would be four guest rooms and a suite of rooms for Sennett's mother. Outside were terraced Italian gardens, a 2,800-square-foot swimming pool with a sand beach, and a paddock with easy access to a bridle path that wound its way through Griffith Park. The design recalled a hodgepodge of Mediterranean influences, which the boosterish Los Angeles Times praised as "a new architectural style characteristic of Southern California and the sun-splashed hills and valleys." The total cost? One million dollars.

To create space for such a palace, workers would have to shave off the top of Mount Hollywoodland. By December of 1925, steam shovels were tearing into the mountain's sedimentary rock, shortening the peak by 69 feet, flattening four level acres at the summit, and carving a winding driveway that linked up with the Mulholland Highway.

But soon after the initial grading was complete, progress stalled. Then the stock market crash of 1929 wiped out much of Sennett's fortune, once valued at $15 million, further delaying

construction. Finally in 1933, bankruptcy forced Sennett to abandon his plans. Others would find a use for the leveled hilltop -- in 1939, broadcaster Tommy Lee purchased the site, renamed the mountain after his father Don Lee, and installed L.A.'s first television studio there -- but the curiously flat mountain remains the legacy of a vanquished dream, a counterargument to the Hollywood Sign's alluring promise.



These two views from Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park show how Sennett's construction project transformed the top of Mount Lee. The darker hump behind Mount Lee is the 1,821-foot summit of Cahuenga Peak. Top: Mount Lee circa 1905, courtesy of the USC Libraries - California Historical Society Collection. Bottom: Mount Lee in 2013, courtesy of Flickr user dspouliot. Used under a Creative Commons license.

A view of the Hollywoodland Sign and Mount Lee (or Mount Hollywoodland, as it was then known) circa 1923-25, before Sennett's construction project flattened the summit. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library. A steam shovel above the Hollywoodland Sign, circa 1926. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library. A steam shovel grades the summit of Mount Hollywoodland, circa 1925. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library. A drawing of Mack Sennett's never-built mountaintop mansion. Courtesy of the UCLA Library Special Collections.

A view of the Hollywoodland Sign and Mount Lee (or Mount Hollywoodland, as it was then known) circa 1923-25, before Sennett's construction project flattened the summit. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library.

A steam shovel above the Hollywoodland Sign, circa 1926. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library.

L.A. as Subject is an association of more than 230 libraries, museums, official archives, cultural institutions, and private collectors. Hosted by the USC Libraries, L.A. as Subject is dedicated to preserving and telling the sometimes-hidden stories and histories of the Los Angeles region.

About the Author

A writer specializing in Los Angeles history, Nathan Masters serves as manager of academic events and programming communications for the USC Libraries, the host institution for L.A. as Subject. MORE

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A steam shovel grades the summit of Mount Hollywoodland, circa 1925. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection - Los Angeles Public Library.

A drawing of Mack Sennett's never-built mountaintop mansion. Courtesy of the UCLA Library Special Collections.

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Sunday, 12th April 2015

'Hermaphrodite' up for rape . . . Male organ 'mysteriously changes'

September 15, 2014 Shingirai Huni Local News

Midlands Correspondent
A 21-year-old suspected hermaphrodite from Gokwe North, who is facing rape charges, is giving police a torrid time after his private parts "mysteriously changed" to female sex organs during medical examinations meant to ascertain the crime.
A hermaphrodite is a human being who has both male and female organs.
The person only identified as Ruben and also known as Abigail, of Nembudziya Business Centre in Gokwe North, is being accused of having sexual intercourse with a girl, 13, on several occasions.

National police spokesperson Chief Superintendent Paul Nyathi confirmed that police were investigating a case in which a person suspected to have both sex organs was being accused of having sexual intercourse with a minor.

"I can confirm that police are investigating a case in which a 21-year-old person suspected to have both male and female sexual organs was being accused of having sex with a minor.

"The incident occurred on August 3 where a 13-year-old girl alleged that she visited the person and spent a night at the suspect's house and the two indulged in sex several times during the night.

"The matter came to light when the girl returned home on the following morning and was quizzed by her relatives for not returning home the previous night.
"The girl revealed that she had spent the night at the suspect's house and the two had sex," he said.

Chief Supt Nyathi said the matter was reported to the police leading to the suspect's arrest.
He alleged that investigations established that the suspect had two sex organs.

Chief Supt Nyathi said the suspect and the complainant went for medical tests where it emerged that the suspect now only had female genitals.
"We are still investigating the matter and we are inviting medical experts to find out what could have happened.

"The medical reports revealed that the girl had been sexually abused," he said.
Sources in Nembudzyia said the suspect uses two names Ruben and Abigail.

They said he would use the name Ruben when interacting with women while he would use Abigail when interacting with men.
Chronicle is reliably informed that the suspect grew up with both sex organs.

The police are allegedly in a dilemma after the matter could not be heard before Gokwe magistrates' courts due to the circumstances surrounding the case.

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'News from the Dead': The Execution & Resuscitation of Anne Green

thechirurgeonsapprentice.com

Sep**28** by The Chirurgeon's Apprentice

Title page woodcut of the execution and resuscitation of Anne Green, 1651.

It was a cold, blustery day when Anne Green, 22 years old, was led to her place of execution at Cattle Yard in Oxford. Just days before, she had been condemned for murdering her bastard child and hiding its corpse in her employer's house.

Now Anne faced the ultimate punishment.

As she approached the gallows, she dropped to her knees, 'humbly desiring of God, that his Divine Majesty would be pleased, to shew some remarkable judgement upon her'. [1] According to witnesses, Anne then rose to her feet and began a slow and agonizing climb up the ladder to her death. Once she had reached the summit, she turned to those eager spectators who had come to see her die, and spoke of 'the lewdness of the Family wherein she lately lived'. [2] After she had proclaimed her innocence, the executioner secured the noose around her neck. Upon her words, 'Sweet Jesus receive my soul', the hangman 'turn'd the Ladder', and left her there to hang before the crowd. [3]

Thirty minutes passed, during which time her friends 'thump[ed] her on the breast' and hung 'with all their weight upon her leggs [*sic*]… lifting her up and then pulling her downe againe with a suddain [*sic*] jerke' in order to quicken her death. [4] Eventually, Anne's body was cut down from the gallows and placed in a coffin, where it was then taken to Drs. Thomas Willis and William Petty for dissection. But just as Willis and Petty were about to make an incision which would split the body open from the sternum to the pubic bone, a strange sound emanated from the 'corpse'.

Anne was alive.

Willis and Petty quickly came to her aid, pouring hot cordials into her mouth, rubbing her arms and legs to warm her body, and (of course) bleeding her. Within twelve hours, Anne was able to speak; within a day, she could answer questions. Given her miraculous resuscitation, Anne was granted a reprieve and declared innocent, the assumption being that the baby had been born stillborn. She later married and bore three more children.

Though one must wonder how she slept at night….

1. Anon., *A declaration from Oxford, of Anne Green a young woman that was lately, and unjustly hanged in the Castle-yard; but since recovered* (London, 1651), p. 2.

2. Richard Watkins, *News from the dead* (Oxford, 1651), p. 2.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

12 comments on "'News from the Dead': The Execution & Resuscitation of Anne Green

1. plan q paris says:
December 7, 2014 at 1:16 AM

I have read so many articles on the topic of the blogger lovers but this post is actually a good piece of writing, keep it up.

2. Top 10 People Falsely Reported as Dead - Toptenz.net says:
January 9, 2014 at 7:03 AM

[…] Anne Greene was an English domestic servant that worked in Duns Tew in the 17th century. At a young age, Anne got pregnant from a relationship with her master's grandson. The baby died at birth and Anne was blamed for the death, despite evidence that it was stillborn. Greene was given a death sentence and hung on December 14, 1650, at Oxford. She requested that her friends be allowed to beat her swinging body, in order to make sure she was dead. After being hung for a half hour, Greene was cut down, pronounced dead by the coroner, and given to a group of medical students for dissection. […]

3. God and the Origins of Neuroscience « historian at work says:
January 27, 2013 at 4:45 PM

[…] he discovered that the body, freshly arrived from the gallows, was a still-living person who had somehow survived her execution. Yet he also felt that dissection was the only way to get the knowledge that he […]

4. Fiona-Jane Brown says:
October 1, 2012 at 11:31 PM

Many many stories of "revived" corpses – mainly because the "short drop" strangled the executionee if they were lucky. The Cruel Mother is a good ballad story of unwed mother killing her children, but they come back to haunt her and tell her she will burn in hell!

- The Chirurgeon's Apprentice says:
October 1, 2012 at 11:47 PM

Fiona – thanks for the info! You are chuck full of great bits and bobs about history :)

5. Torturing the Dead: The Prevention of Premature Burial and Dissection | Wonders & Marvels says:
June 10, 2012 at 1:09 AM

[…] Willis plunged the knife into her sternum, Anne miraculously awoke. [For more about Anne Greene, click here]. […]

6. Torturing the Dead: The Prevention of Premature Burial and Dissection | the i.b.tauris blog says:
May 23, 2012 at 3:05 AM

[…] Willis plunged the knife into her sternum, Anne miraculously awoke. [For more about Anne Greene, click here]. […]

7. Torturing the Dead: The Prevention of Premature Burial and Dissection « The Chirurgeon's Apprentice says:
April 10, 2012 at 11:29 AM

[…] Willis plunged the knife into her sternum, Anne miraculously awoke. [For more about Anne Greene, click here]. […]

8. Body of Evidence: Proving Infanticide in Early Modern England « The Chirurgeon's Apprentice says:
October 18, 2011 at 10:08 AM

[…] Implicit in this statement is the assumption that poor, unmarried mothers were promiscuous, immoral women who, 'having committed one sin', were capable of committing an even greater sin—that of infanticide. During the 17th century, numerous publications appeared characterising the unwed mother as a 'lewd whore'. The 1634 ballad, No Natural Mother but a Monster, traces a young girl's fall from grace—beginning with premarital sex, followed by the pregnancy and eventual strangulation of her bastard child, and ending with her own execution on the scaffold. [2] [Read about Anne Greene, executed for infanticide, here]. […]

9. The Hangman's Fracture « The Chirurgeon's Apprentice says:
September 6, 2011 at 4:47 PM

[…] Even at that, death was not always guaranteed. Although it was rare, there were certainly instances of people being cut down from the gallows, only to miraculously resuscitate on the dissecting table. (Read more here). […]

10. The Chirurgeon's Apprentice says:
September 28, 2010 at 12:09 PM

The woodcut is brilliant. I understood it as representing various stages of Anne's life which led her to the gallows: her illicit affair with her employer's grandson, followed by her dropping to her knees at the base of the ladder, and finally the actual execution with a friend pulling at her feet.

Interestingly, there is a novel by Mary Hopper on Anne Green's execution called (unsurprisingly), *Newes from the Dead*. A summary–which tells me that the novel is indeed fiction because some of the details are incorrect from the start–can be found on

Amazon:

It is 1650 and a baby lies raw and cold, dead before it even drew breath. A young servant girl, terrified and alone, is accused of its murder and sent to the gallows. Protesting her innocence in the chill air of a December morning, Anne Green is hanged. Moments later her lifeless body is lifted down from the scaffold and carried to the College of Physicians for brutal dissection.

But as Anne's corpse lies on the table and the doctors assemble, a strange rattle is heard in her throat. Against all the odds, could she still be alive?

11. Tom says:
September 28, 2010 at 11:55 AM

Something similar happens in Iain Pear's novel 'An Instance of the Fingerpost', which also happens to be a really excellent novel (although I have now spoiled it for anyone that has not read it).

Horrible the nasty execution method. Supposedly the hangman is supposed to give enough of a 'jump' to break the neck, so friends and wellwishers don't have to tug and pull to do it.

The woodcut is nice though. The man thumping her with a musket! And a couple in their bed declaring it to be 'God's Providence'!

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‘Sea monster’ washes up in New Zealand | The New Daily

5:39pm, Apr 17, 2015 Jackson Stiles and Anthony Colangelo

thenewdaily.com.au

Oarfish are known to shorten themselves by biting off their tails, experts say.

Silvery creature measured three metres. *Photo: NZ Marine Studies Centre and Aquarium*

A deep sea creature that eats itself, and may have inspired some ‘sea monster’ myths, has washed ashore on New Zealand’s South Island, shocking a wildlife expert.

The three metre long oarfish, found on Thursday at Aramoana, was one of the most unusual creatures ever seen by the Department of Conversation’s David Agnew.

“It was really fresh, it had just washed up on the night tide and looking at it, it was a pretty weird looking creature,” said Mr Agnew, who had never seen such a fish in his 20 years living in the area.

“It didn’t have scales like other fish, it had smooth skin, like tinfoil, and if you rubbed it the silver would come off.”

The oarfish can reach lengths of up to eight metres, the NZ Marine Studies Centre and Aquarium posted on Facebook.

“Healthy oarfish are known to wash up on beaches and are sometimes found near the water surface – so may be the origin of some ‘sea monster’ myths,” the centre said.

“Specimens larger than 1.5 metres are known to shorten their length by biting off their tail.”

The fish may be preserved for scientific research.

While this specimen is only three metres, oarfish can grow to eight metres. Photo: NZ Marine Studies

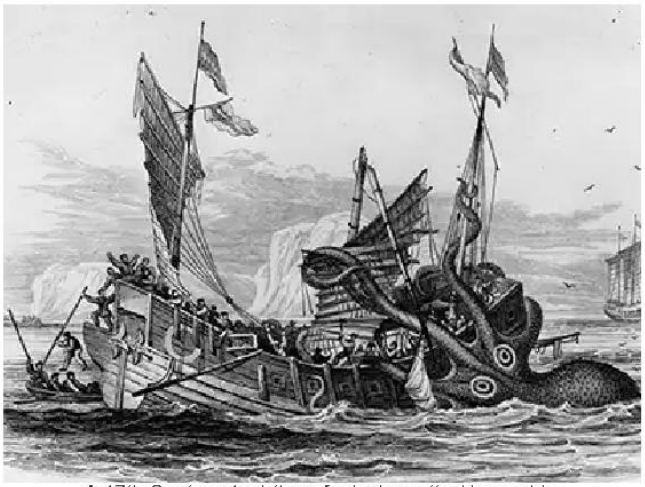
A bad omen

There is an ancient Japanese myth that says a washed up oarfish is a sign of an impending earthquake.

This belief became further entrenched when 20 of them beached themselves before the nation’s disastrous 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

In the Asian nation, they

Centre and Aquarium



A 17th Century depiction of a kraken attacking a ship.

are known as *ryugu no tsukai*, or "messenger from the sea god's palace".

It is believed to have 'no direct predator', which may add to the belief it's some sort of mythical marine monster species.

Their reported lengths of up to 55-feet have also caused comparisons to beats while a marine biologist told the *New York Times* that they're among the most 'unpredictable' animals known to man.

Sea monster myths steeped in fact

We know for sure that 'sea monsters' are out there, even though they were once thought to be fantastical beasts.

For centuries cultures, people have been fascinated by unusual and large creatures who lurk beneath the ocean.

Giant squid were thought to be the stuff of legend until in 1857 a Danish naturalist found a large squid beak on a beach, proving the existence of the *the kraken* or giant squid – one of a sea farer's greatest fears.

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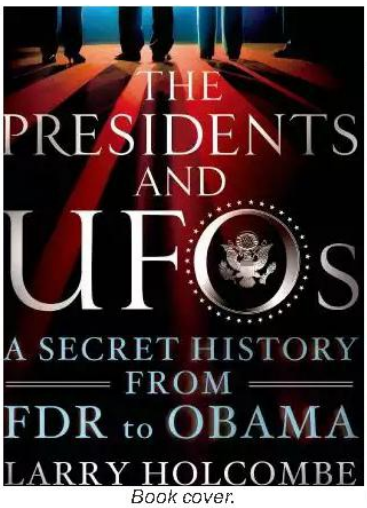
Aliens killed Kennedy! And other wild UFO tales from a new book

05/03/2015 news.com.au

LITTLE-KNOWN fact: The late comedian Jackie Gleason was good friends with President Richard Nixon. Even weirder? Both men were obsessed with UFOs.

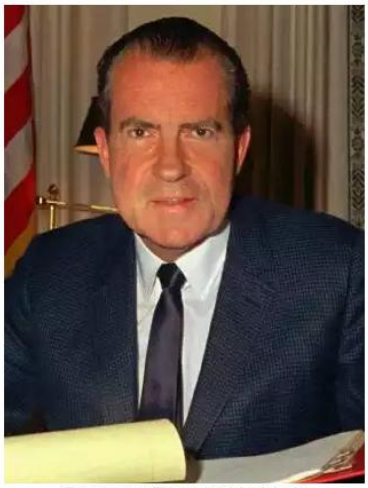
This new book by Larry Holcombe — who's been studying UFOs for 50 years — does make some wild and thinly substantiated claims. But it's too fun to pass up.

Gleason's ex-wife told *Esquire* magazine that one night, after a day spent golfing, Nixon "showed up at Gleason's home and whisked him away to Homestead air force Base, where they entered a hanger in a high-security area." There, the two men supposedly gazed upon the wreckage of a UFO and its dead alien cargo.



Book cover.

*Source:*New York Post


President Richard M Nixon.

*Source:*AP

Holcombe, a clear believer, breaks down every rumour about UFO visitation and the government's "involvement" in it. There are many stories of sightings by high-level people, and it's no secret that the government has looked into many of these reports over the years.

In October 1969, outside of a Lions Club meeting in Georgia, Holcombe writes that Jimmy Carter and some fellow club members "noticed a strange light in the western sky."

According to the book, Carter later recalled one of the men saying, "Look over to the west!" Carter allegedly said there was a bright light in the sky, which came closer, stopped, then suddenly "changed colour to blue, then to red, then back to white." The former president called to the aircraft a UFO — "but doesn't believe it was extraterrestrial."

While campaigning for president, Carter promised, "If elected ... he would disclose what the government knew about the UFO phenomenon," however, to Holcombe's knowledge, he never did.

*Source:*AP

Ronald Reagan is regarded by UFO-legists as "the most open proponent of the existence of UFOs and an extraterrestrial presence as any president in history," Holcombe writes.

In 1974, while governor of California, Reagan was flying on a Cessna Citation when he and others on board noticed a bright light that suddenly "shot up at a 45-degree angle at a high rate of

President Ronald Reagan his wife, first lady Nancy Reagan.

speed."

Years later, the pilot on the flight, Bill Paynter, "was asked if he thought Reagan believed in UFOs and he replied, 'How could he not believe after what we saw that night?'"

Holcombe also cites a story told by actor Shirley MacLaine, who supposedly heard it from Lucille Ball. (Again, consider the source.)

En route to a party in LA, Reagan and his wife, Nancy, "encountered a UFO on the ground blocking their car. An alien exited the craft and addressed Reagan telepathically with one message. 'Leave acting and go into politics.' "

Children eye a model of an alien at the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, New Mexico.

*Source:*AP

Yes, this story is insane — but Holcombe argues that both Ball and the late Steve Allen said that "when the Reagans appeared at the party late, they appeared shaken and Reagan said they had seen a UFO."

The detail about the telepathic alien, alas, was missing from Ball and Allen's original version.

Holcombe writes that President Reagan had such a strong interest in UFOs that his aides "worked hard to keep a lid on the president's interest."

Holcombe also cites a "leaked document" from 1942 in which Gen. George Marshall, addressing President Franklin Roosevelt, makes reference to a mysterious sighting of several aircraft: They "are in fact not earthly, and according to secret intelligence sources they are in all probability of interplanetary origin."

Presidents: George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush.

*Source:*News Limited

Amazing if true, but Holcombe says the memo's authenticity is still debated.

Just when you think this book can't get any more bonkers, Holcombe writes that UFOs and aliens may have played a part in the Kennedy assassination.

Holcombe believes that Kennedy, who "requested UFO data from the CIA ... had a great concern that UFOs could be mistaken by the US or the Soviet Union as a nuclear attack, and it is believed he discussed this issue with [Soviet leader Nikita] Khrushchev."

Holcombe cites a classified CIA communication from the Kennedy era that reads, in part, "when

conditions become nonconductive for growth in our environment and Washington cannot be influenced any further ... it should be 'wet.' "

Did aliens play a role in the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy?

*Source:*Getty Images

Since "wet" was Soviet code for "assassination," Holcombe thinks this could be CIA code for a plot to kill Kennedy. Why? He was considering telling the world that aliens existed, of course.

Not to worry: The Obama administration is on it. Appearing on*Jimmy Kimmel Live* last week, Obama was asked if he'd looked into Area 51, which has long been rumoured to house the bodies of dead extraterrestrials. The President had fun chatting about the possibility of ET hanging around, telling Kimmel "I can't reveal anything".

This article originally appeared in *The New York Post*.

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"Real" ghost claim takes a back seat to skeptical research

doubtfulnews.com

by idoubtit • April 23, 2015

What paranormal enthusiast like me hasn't seen this famous picture of the dead mother in law in the back seat of the old car? IT WAS CREEPY AS HELL and it was one of the most widespread photos promoted as "real" because there seemed no good explanation. That's because not many people attempted to provide an explanation.

It looks like there is one. Or, at least, we can rule out "ghost".

We love to highlight well-done research on the paranormal and pseudoscience topics here at DN. Good job Blake Smith for taking the time to dig at this case (as well as all the others) and provide meaningful paranormal research to the public. "Ghost hunters" are put to shame by "skeptical" efforts.

Skeptic » Insight » Double-Exposure in the Back Seat.

> You can find it reproduced on hundreds of paranormal themed websites and in many ghost books. The photo is usually accompanied by a short bit of text that describes the scenario. Mrs. Mabel Chinnery snapped the photo in March of 1959 in England. She took the photo of her husband in the car, but when the photo was developed she could see that her mother (Mrs. Ellen Hammell) was in the photo sitting behind him—but the photo was taken during a visit to the late Mrs. Hammell's grave! How could she now appear in the back seat?!

A screen shot from Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers offers the clearest copy of the photo by Mrs. Mabel Chinnery allegedly showing a back-seat ghost. Photo from Skeptic.com/Blake Smith

Smith concludes it would have likely been very easy for this to be a double exposure. Inconsistencies in the photo are revealed that rule out the option that there was really a figure in the back seat at all. Are there any good photos left that people still claim are ghosts? What am I talking about?!? Paranormalists ignore any conclusion that does not fit their agenda and won't even bother to investigate classic examples they believe are real. They will continue to use this as an example of a "real" ghost photo just like they continue to promote many other clearly debunked items as "proof" of the paranormal (like the Nessie photo). They rarely do their skeptical homework to find out the best answer and are ignorant of the detective work done to make sense of them.

Most of the photos in this gallery of "Best Ghost Photos" have very non-paranormal explanations. But don't let that stop you from believing in ghosts…

3 comments for ""Real" ghost claim takes a back seat to skeptical research"

1. Neil
April 23, 2015 at 3:01 PM

Hmm, your "very likely" that it is simply a double exposure doesn't really fly, does it? The person in the back seat who was positively identified was dead at the time the picture was taken so unable to be singly let alone doubly exposed in any new image. Or are you into rating that the picture is a deliberate fraud?

- idoubtit
April 23, 2015 at 3:03 PM

You didn't read the linked article. Try again.

2. Dubious f
April 23, 2015 at 6:09 PM

Because we say it's true, doesn't mean it's real… I like to bring back in these cases, the "creepy Stanley" investigation group apparition that DN posted: doubtfulnews.com/2014/07/creepy-stanley-palace-video-interesting-but-pretty-much-useless/ They were on their way to a Nobel prize and then, froc all! If we have to re-hear these stories every time a new batch of gullible internauts show up, we'll be posting forever. Site will last, ms. idoubit

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